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THE RAT AND THE RENDULLUM!

A MASTERPIECE OF
TERROR
BY EDGAR ALLEN POE



DOUG WILDY

STRANGE AND TERRIBLE STORIES HAVE BEEN WHISPERED OF THE DUNGEONS AT TOLEDO, STORIES TOO GHASTLY TO REPEAT. WHAT WERE THOSE FRIGHTFUL HORRORS HIDDEN BY ITS COLD, GRIM WALLS? I WAS SOON TO KNOW... FOR I WAS IN THE AWFUL GRASP OF THAT KING OF TERRORS, THE INQUISITION!

ALL HOPE LEFT ME AS I SAW BEFORE ME THE DREAD TRIBUNAL OF THE INQUISITION...

HOLD THE PRISONER UP THAT WE MAY PASS SENTENCE!

THE SENTENCE IS DEATH! DEATH BY TORTURE!

MY MIND REELED AT WHAT WAS IN STORE FOR ME, AND I MERCIFULLY LOST CONSCIOUSNESS...

UNHH!

TAKE HIM TO THE DOOM THAT AWAITS HIM!

AWOKE TO FIND MYSELF BEING CARRIED DOWN A DARK PASSAGEWAY...EVER DOWNWARD...

GIVE ME STRENGTH TO FACE WHAT LIES AHEAD...

AT LENGTH THEY HALTED BEFORE WHAT APPEARED TO BE A MASSIVE IRON DOOR. ONE OF THEM OPENED IT...

THROW THE PRISONER IN!

IN, FOOL! MAY YOUR STAY BE SHORT AND HORRIBLE! HA! HA! HA! HA!

OHH!

AS THAT HUGE DOOR SLAMMED UPON ME, MY HEART GREW SICK WITH TERROR...

WHAT NOW? WHAT NOW? WHAT HELLISH TORTURE HAVE THEY PREPARED FOR ME?

ALL AROUND ME WAS BLACKNESS...THE IMPENETRABLE DARKNESS OF ETERNAL NIGHT...

IF I CAN GET TO THE WALLS I MAY BE ABLE TO FIND OUT WHAT KIND OF PLACE THIS IS.



PERHAPS THEY ARE HOLDING ME FOR AN AUTO DA FE! THEY WANT TO BURN ME TO DEATH! *OHH!*



OR THEY HAVE PUT ME IN A TOMB...A LIVING TOMB TO STAY. UNTIL I DIE AND FOREVER AFTER...*NO! NO! NO!*



IN A WILD PANIC I RAN ACROSS THE DUNGEON IN THE DIRECTION I THOUGHT THE DOOR LAY. NEAR THE MIDDLE OF THE ROOM I TRIPPED...

I MUST GET OUT... *AHHH!*



WHAT IS THIS? NOTHING! EMPTINESS!...IT IS A PIT! A *PIT* IN THE CENTER OF THE CELL!

NOW I KNEW THE DEATH THEY HAD PLANNED FOR ME... *DEATH IN THE PIT!* LUCK WAS

WITH ME! ANOTHER STEP AND...I MUST KNOW HOW DEEP IT IS!



FOR INTERMINABLE SECONDS I LISTENED UNTIL THERE WAS A SULLEN SPLASH FROM THE FOUL-SMELLING DEPTHS BELOW... *BOTTOMLESS!*

IT IS *BOTTOMLESS!*



AT THE SOUND OF THE SPLASH, I HEARD A PANEL QUICKLY SLIDE BACK, AND A BRIGHT LIGHT FILLED THE DUNGEON...

A LIGHT! MY EYES!



TREMBLINGLY, I GROPED MY WAY TO THE SAFETY OF THE WALL. ANOTHER PANEL OPENED, AND A PITCHER OF WATER WAS THRUST IN. I DRANK GREEDILY...



WHEN I AWOKE, I FOUND MYSELF FIRMLY STRAPPED TO A LOW COUCH. ONLY MY HEAD AND LEFT ARM COULD BE MOVED...

NOW WHAT? AT LEAST THEY HAVE LEFT A LITTLE FOOD. THEY CANNOT EXPECT TO KILL ME IMMEDIATELY...



THEN THE LIGHT FADED AWAY AS MY CRUEL CAPTORS FOUND ME STILL ALIVE...

THE WALL! I MUST GET BACK TO THE WALL!



THEN I REALIZED WHAT I HAD DONE, BUT IT WAS TOO LATE. THE WATER HAD BEEN DRUGGED...

MUSTN'T FALL ASLEEP... MUSTN'T... UHHH!



A DIM LIGHT ILLUMINATED MY PRISON. AROUND ME I COULD SEE WALLS OF IRON ON WHICH WERE MOUNTED HIDEOUS AND REPULSIVE IMAGES...

WHAT MANNER OF EVIL IS THIS? THE WALLS ARE GRAVEN WITH FIENDS, DEVILS, MONSTROSITIES!



ABOVE ME WAS THE STRANGEST THING OF ALL. A
HIDEOUS REPRESENTATION OF DEATH HOLDING A
GIGANTIC PENDULUM...



WHAT FRIGHTFUL
THING IS THAT?
WHAT CAN IT
BE FOR?

HOW LONG I WAS ENGAGED WITH THE FEARSOME
CREATURES I DON'T KNOW, BUT WHEN I LOOKED
UP AGAIN...

THE PENDULUM! IT IS LOWER!
IT'S COMING DOWN ON ME!



...WAS SOON TO FIND OUT...

THE PENDULUM! IT MOVES!
IT IS SWINGING!



AT THAT MOMENT, A SLIGHT NOISE CAUSED ME
TO LOOK ASIDE. WHAT I SAW CURDLED MY
BLOOD IN DISGUST AND HORROR...

RATS! GIANT RATS!
UGH!



THEY MEAN TO SLASH ME TO RIBBONS.
THE PIT FAILED THEM, SO NOW THEY TRY
THIS!...AND I CAN'T MOVE! I CAN'T
MOVE!



HOUR AFTER HOUR, MINUTE AFTER MINUTE, SWINGING WITH THE REGULARITY OF A CLOCK, THE AWFUL BLADE CAME LOWER AND LOWER...



WHY DON'T THEY KILL ME?
WHY DON'T THEY END THIS
TERRIBLE WAITING? I CAN'T
STAND IT! I CAN'T! I
CAN'T!



SUDDENLY MY EYES FELL UPON THE PLATE OF GREASY FOOD NEAR MY COUCH...

MY MIND IS GOING TO
SNAP! I...THE FOOD...AND
THE RATS! PERHAPS...



AS THE BLADE CAME EVER CLOSER, RELENTLESSLY DOWNWARD, I SMEARED AS MUCH OF MY BONDS AS I COULD WITH THE FOOD...

IF ONLY
THEY WILL COME! WHAT OTHER FOODS
HAVE THEY BEEN ACCUSTOMED TO
FEAST ON?...



DRAWN BY THE SMELL OF THE FOOD, THEIR RED EYES GLARING, THE RAVENOUS CREATURES LEAPT FROM THEIR HOLES... **EAT!**

**EAT! THERE IS NOT MUCH
TIME LEFT!**



I CAN MOVE! ANOTHER SECOND AND...
BUT THAT MAY BE TOO LATE!



THEN, WHEN THE NEXT STROKE WOULD HAVE ENDED MY LIFE, MY BONDS PARTED, GNAWED BY THE RAVENOUS RATS, AND I WAS ABLE TO ROLL ASIDE...TO SAFETY...SAFETY?



I HAVE ESCAPED THE PENDULUM, BUT FOR WHAT? I AM STILL IN THEIR EVIL HANDS...WHAT NOW?



IDIDN'T HAVE TO WAIT LONG TO FIND OUT. SUDDENLY, THE ROOM SEEMED BRIGHTER, THE HORROROUS FIGURES BEGAN TO GLOW WITH AN EERIE LIGHT... THE CARVINGS, THE STATUES, THEY SEEM TO BE GLARING AT ME! THEY ARE ALIVE!



THE WALLS GROW HOT! DO THEY MEAN TO ROAST ME ALIVE?



NOW A NEW TERROR BESET ME. THE WALLS OF MY PRISON BEGAN TO CLOSE IN ON ME.

THE ROOM IS GETTING SMALLER! THE WALLS! THEY'RE MOVING IN!

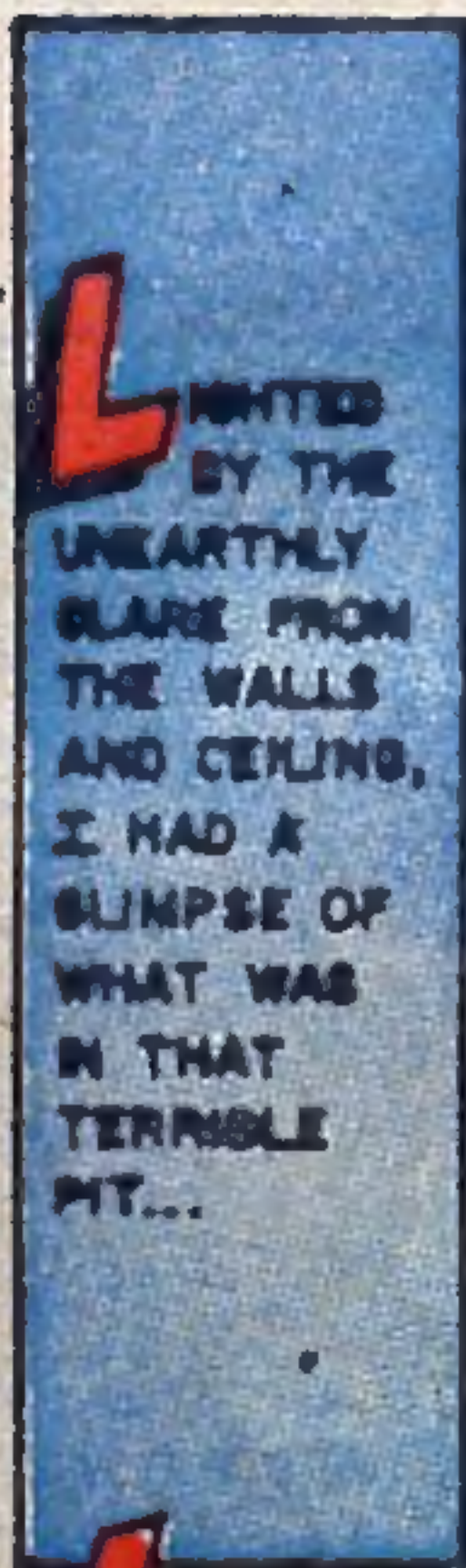




THE ROOM IS CHANGING SHAPE!
IT IS GETTING HOTTER! I CAN'T
STAND MUCH MORE OF THIS...



THEY WANT TO DRIVE ME INTO THE
PIT! THAT'S WHAT THEY WANT TO DO!
DRIVE ME INTO THE PIT!



LIGHTED BY THE
UNEARTHLY
GLARE FROM
THE WALLS
AND CEILING,
I HAD A
GLIMPSE OF
WHAT WAS
IN THAT
TERRIBLE
PIT...



NO! NO! I AM LOST! OH,
HORROR! ANY HORROR BUT
THAT! ... UHHHH!



WHAT I HAD SEEN WAS TOO MUCH FOR ME.
I FELL SENSELESS TO THE FLOOR. AS I
DID SO, I HAD A VISION OF THE WALLS RUSHING
BACK. FROM A DISTANCE CAME THE SOUND OF
TRUMPETS...

NO!
UHHHH!



REMAINED CONSCIOUSNESS AS A STRONG ARM
PULLED ME BACK FROM THE BRINK OF THE ABYSS.
I LOOKED INTO FRIENDLY FACE...

GENERAL DE LA SALLE!...

YOU ARE
STILL ALIVE!



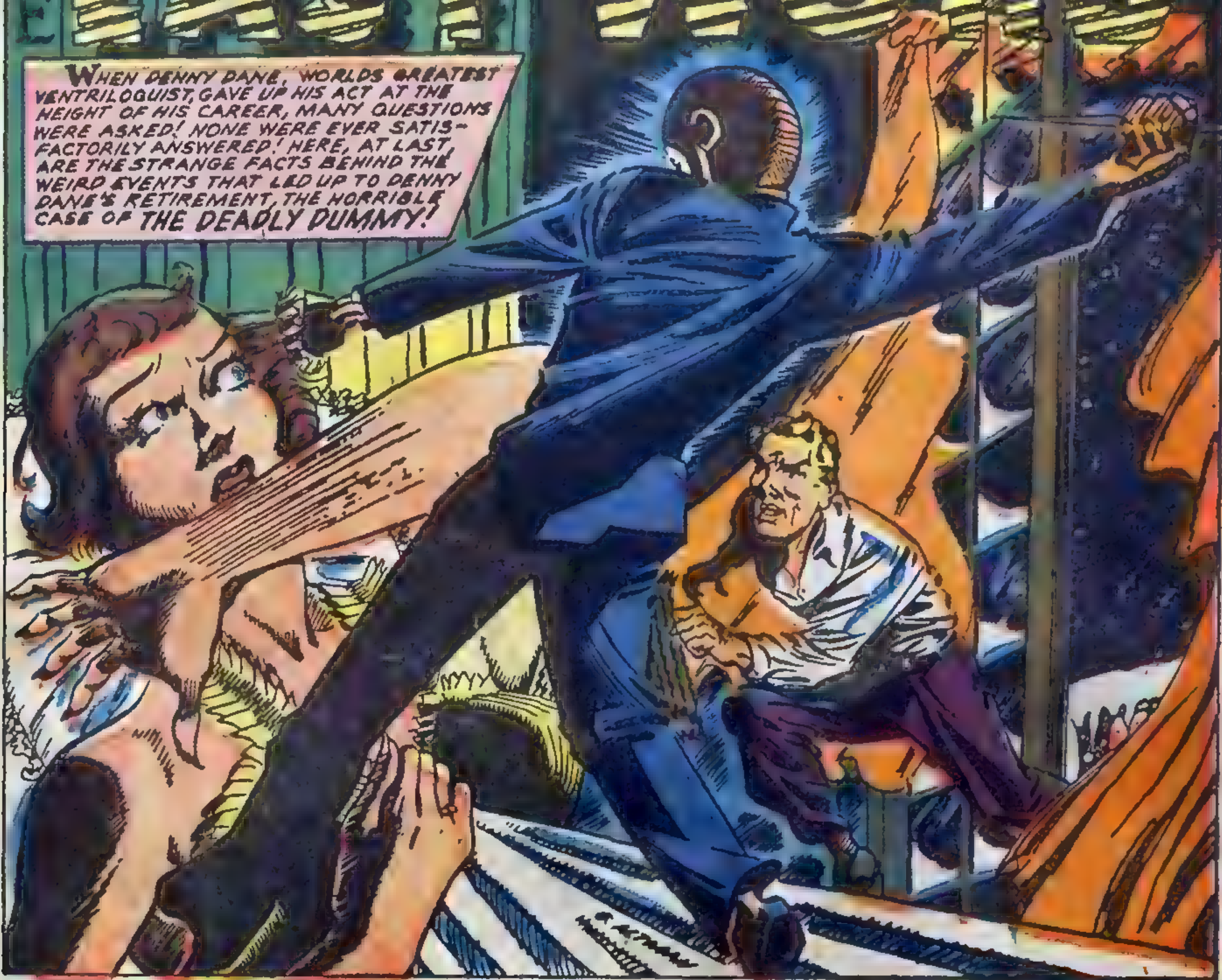
I MUST BE MAD.
MY MIND HAS FAILED.
YOU CANNOT BE
HERE...

YOU ARE ALL RIGHT,
SIRE. TOLEDO HAS FALLEN.
THE INQUISITION IS NO
MORE!

THE
END

THE LAST WORD

WHEN DENNY DANE, WORLD'S GREATEST VENTRILOQUIST, GAVE UP HIS ACT AT THE HEIGHT OF HIS CAREER, MANY QUESTIONS WERE ASKED! NONE WERE EVER SATISFACTORILY ANSWERED! HERE, AT LAST, ARE THE STRANGE FACTS BEHIND THE WEIRD EVENTS THAT LED UP TO DENNY DANE'S RETIREMENT, THE HORRIBLE CASE OF THE DEADLY DUMMY!



OUR STORY BEGINS SOME YEARS AGO AT THE PALACE THEATRE, AS DENNY DANE AND "HECTOR" CONCLUDE THEIR ACT...



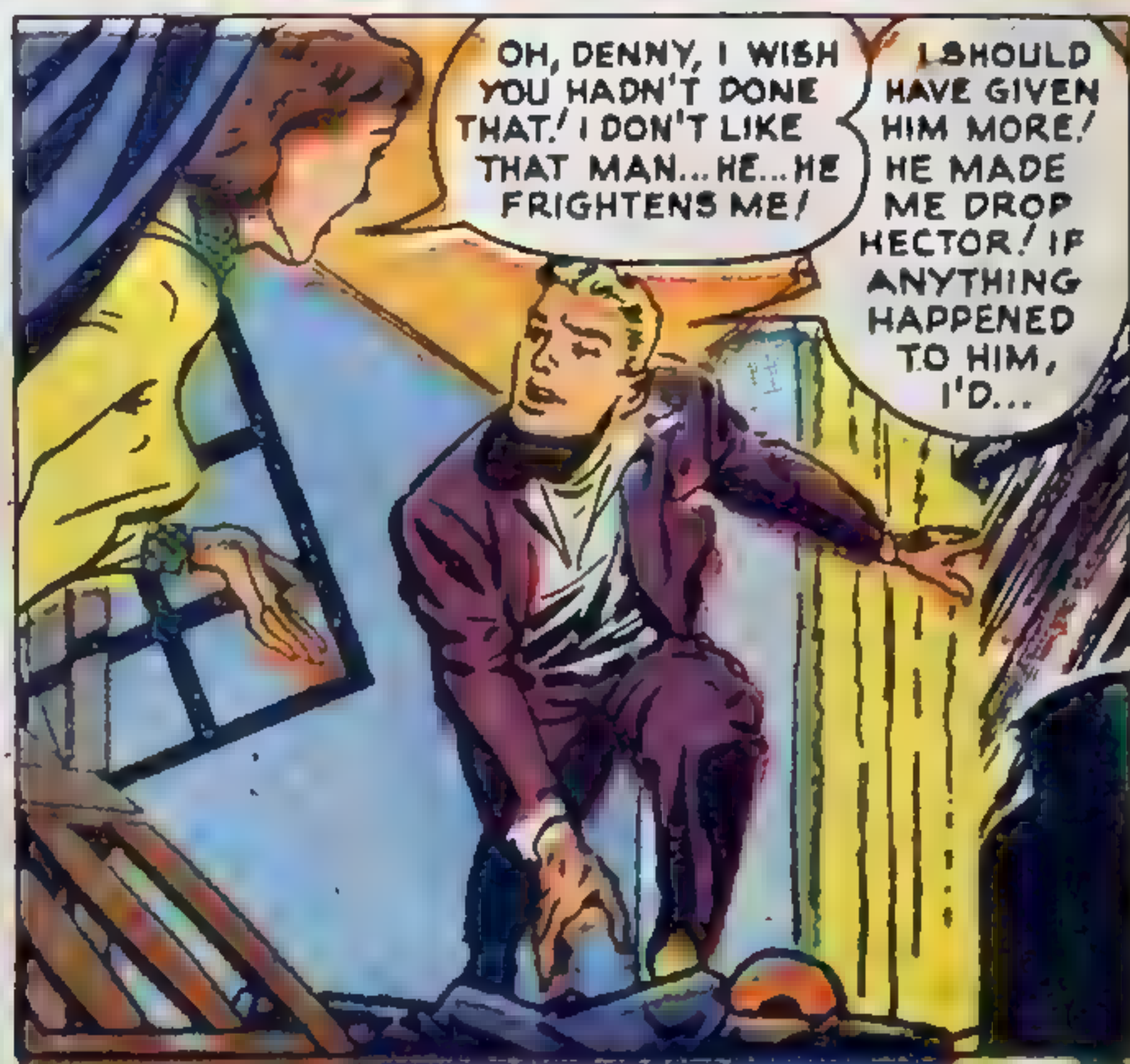
TAKE A BOW, DENNY! I DON'T MIND... BE A HAM!



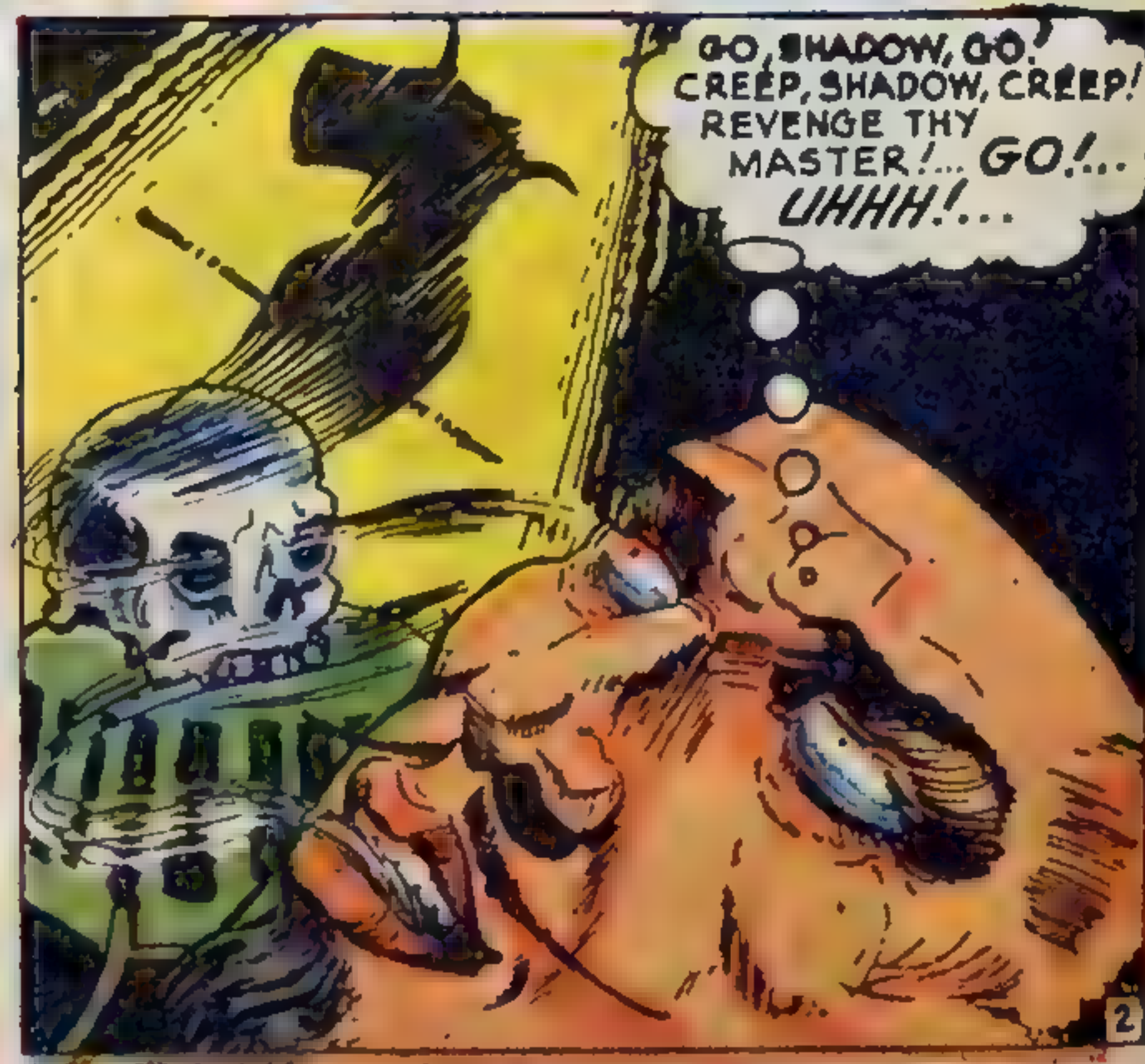
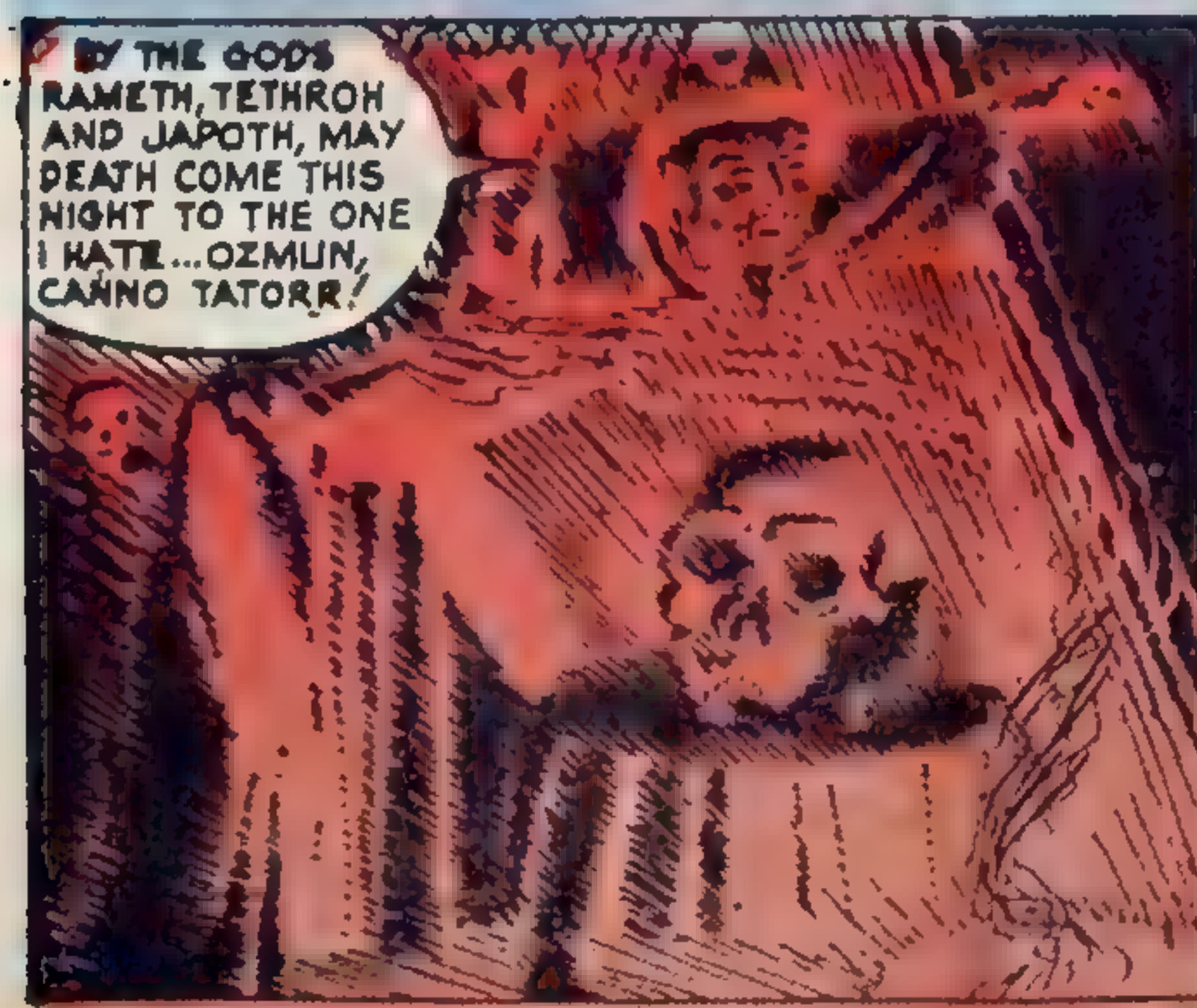
LET'S GO, HECTOR! I DON'T LIKE THE WAY THE GREAT HUGO WAS MAKING A PLAY FOR TINA TONIGHT! I WOULDN'T TRUST HIM FARTHER THAN I CAN THROW A PIANO!

ME EITHER! STEP ON IT!

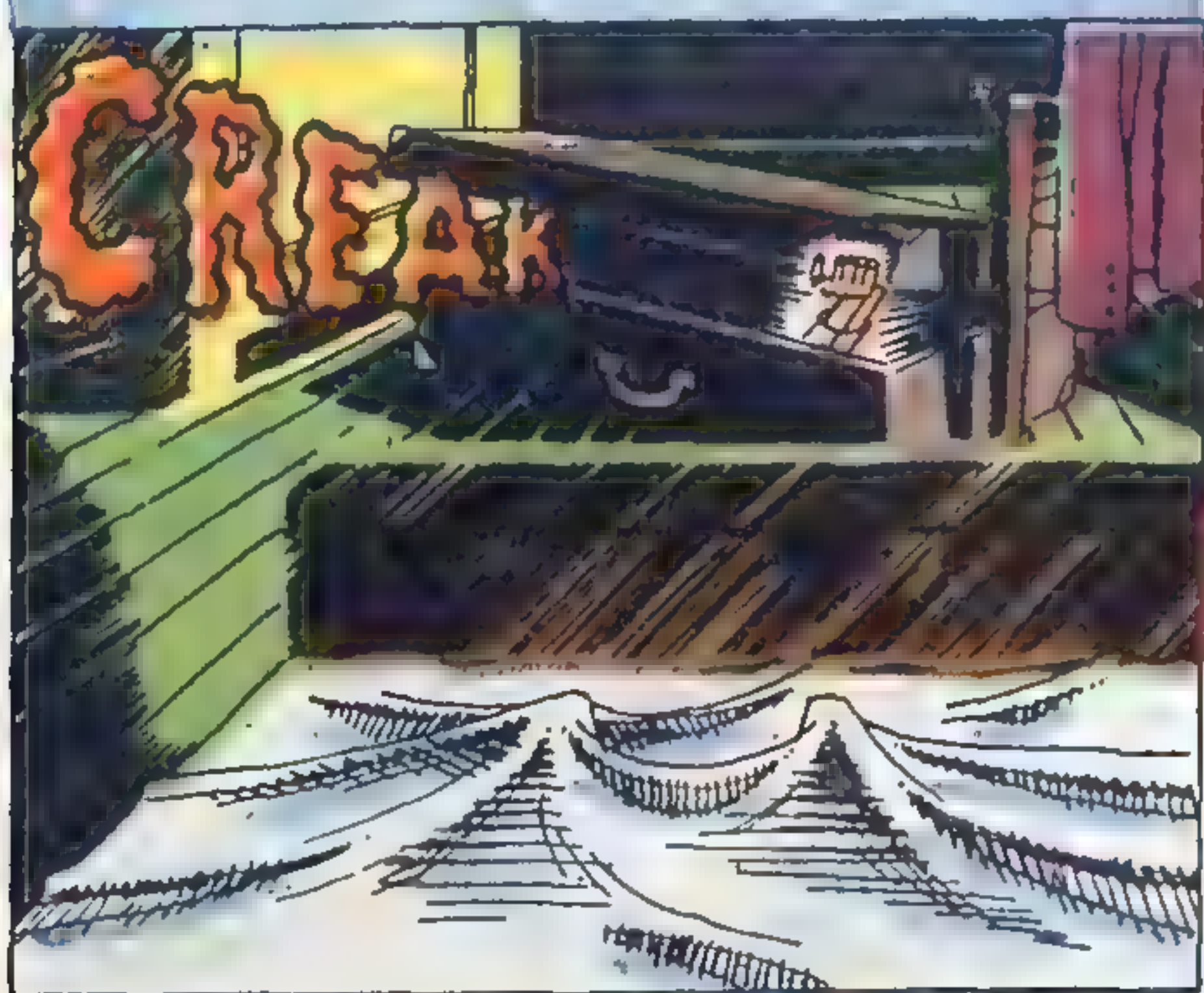
DIVING INTO HIS BEDROOM Denny's worst suspicions are confirmed...



Tina was right! A few hours later at Hugo's apartment a strange and weird rite occurs...



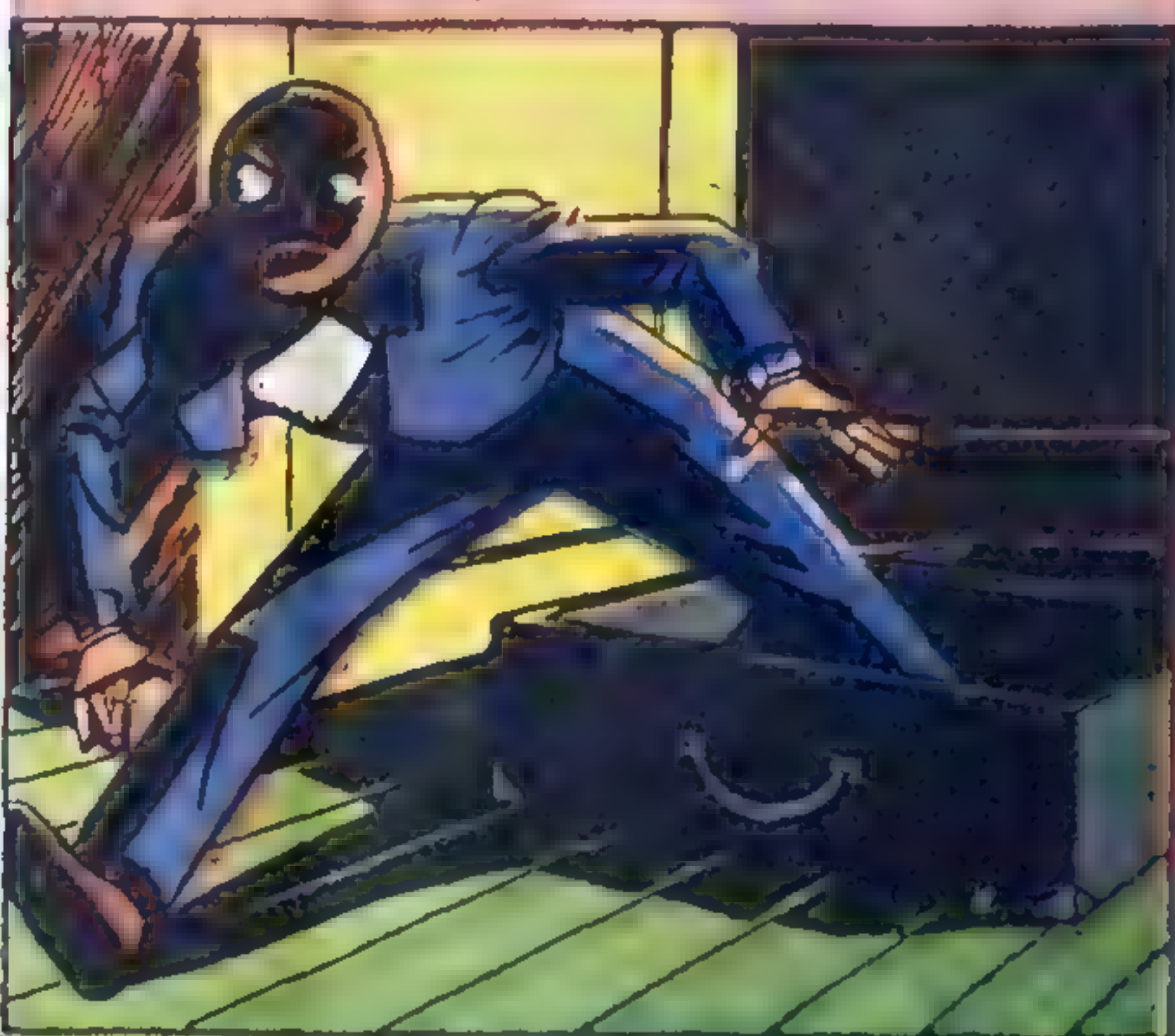
AND AT THAT VERY MOMENT IN DENNY DANE'S ROOM
ACROSS TOWN... A TINY ARM REACHES FROM HIS
DUMMY'S CASE...



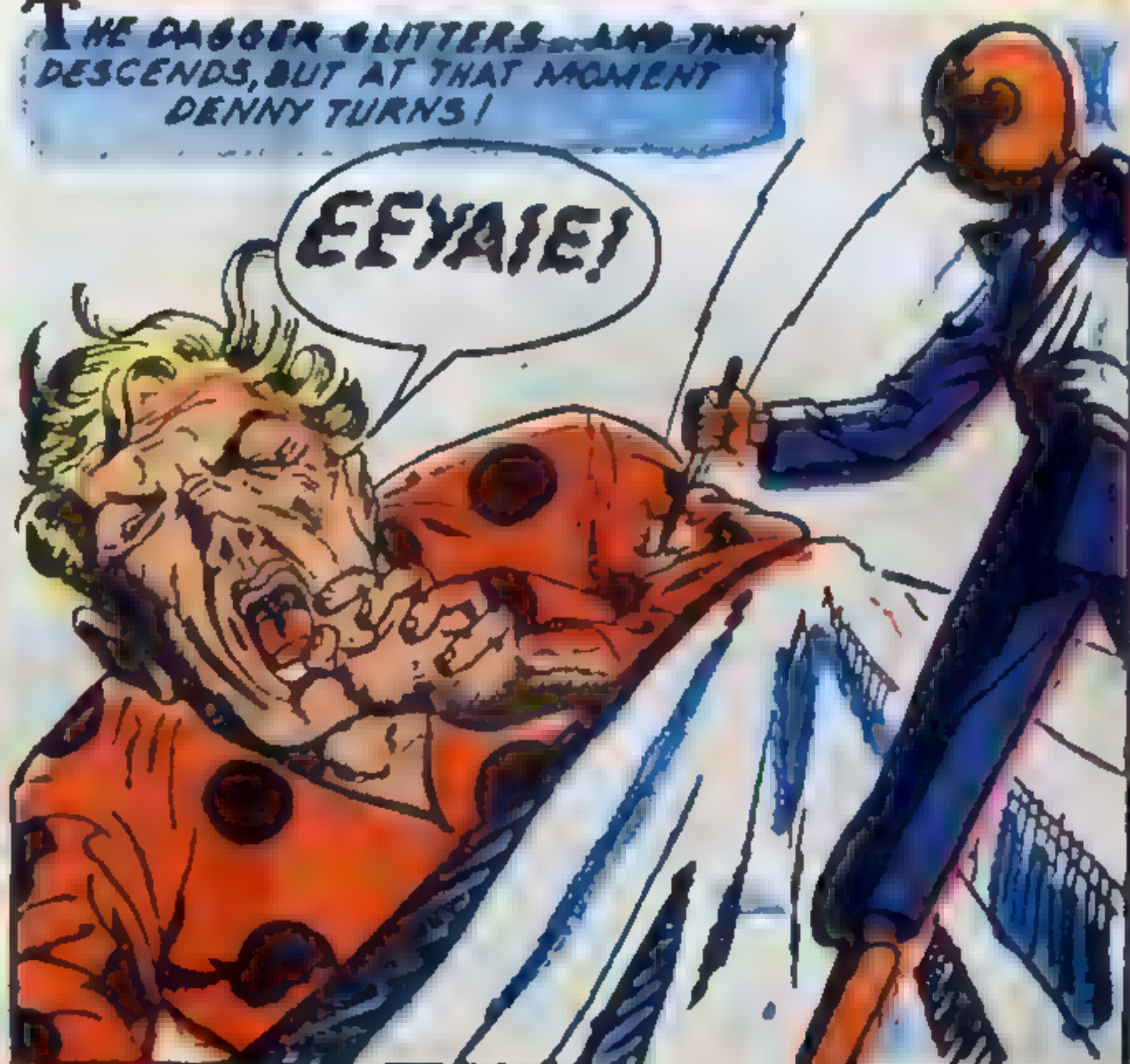
LIKE A TINY DEMON FROM THE NETHER WORLD, THE
DUMMY FINDS A DAGGER-LIKE LETTER OPENER AND
SCRAMBLES ONTO DENNY'S BED...



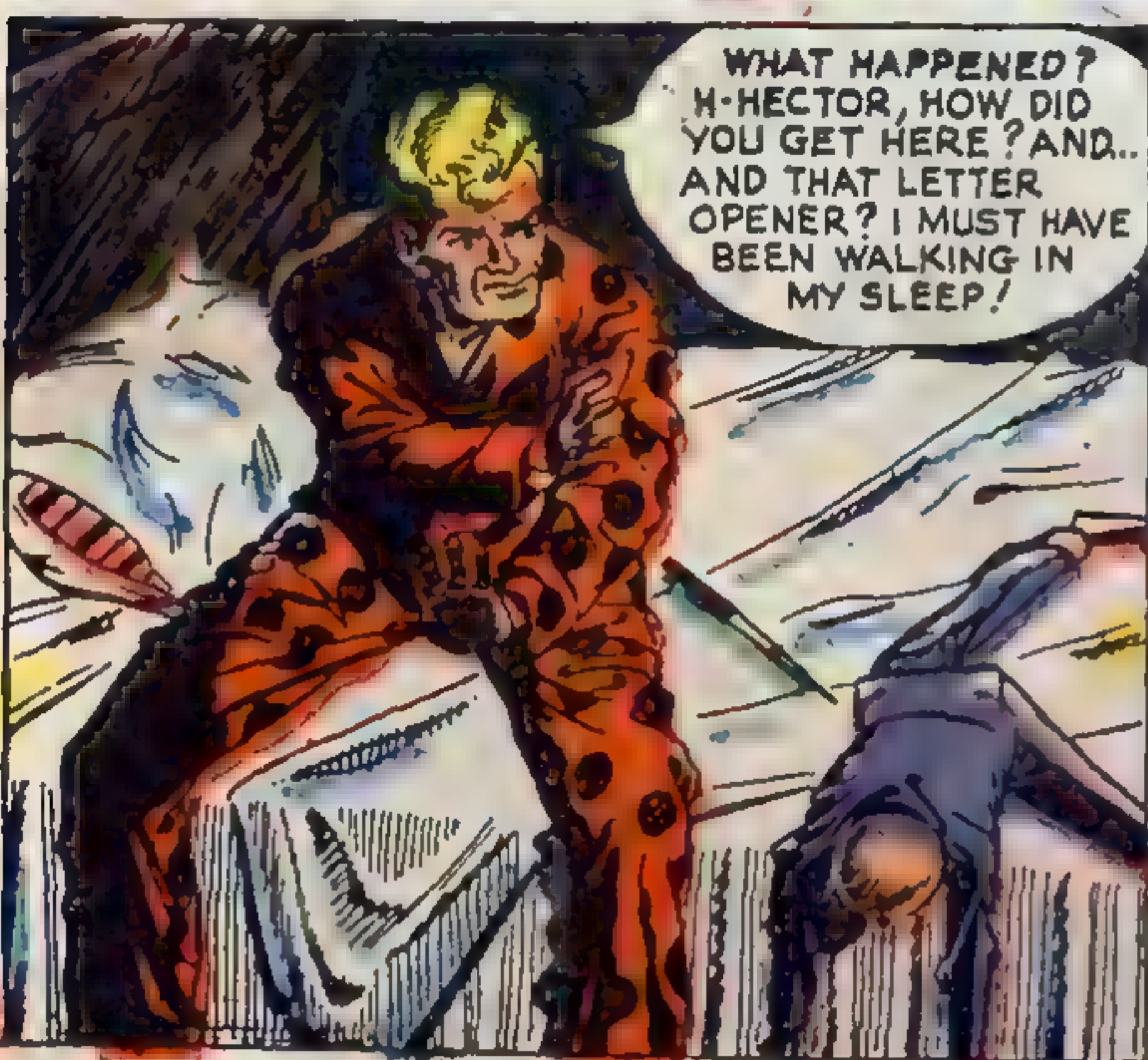
AND HECTOR, EYE WRITTEN ACROSS HIS PAINTED
FACE, STEPS FORTH...



THE DAGGER GLITTERS... AND THEN
DESCENDS, BUT AT THAT MOMENT
DENNY TURNS!

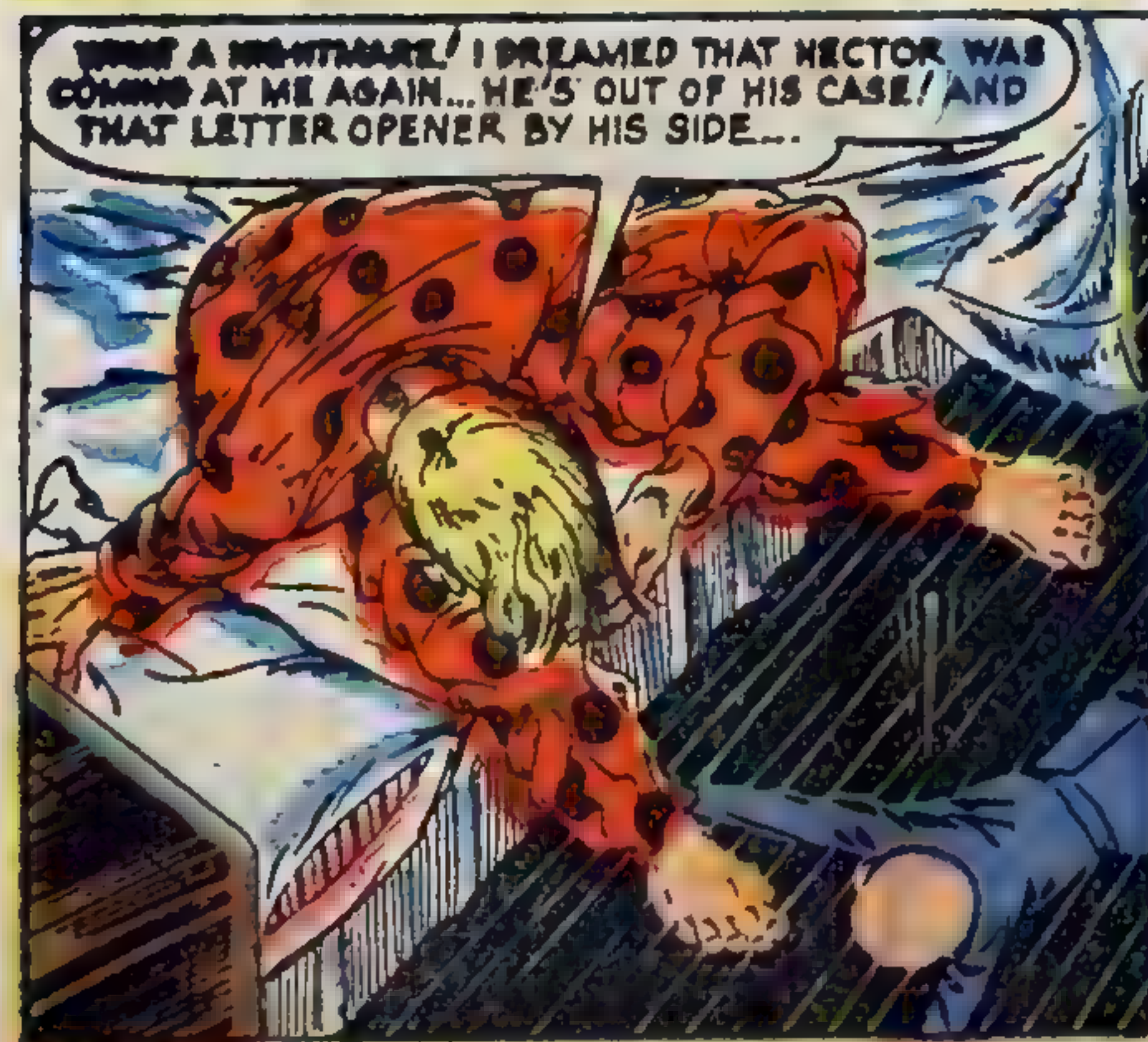
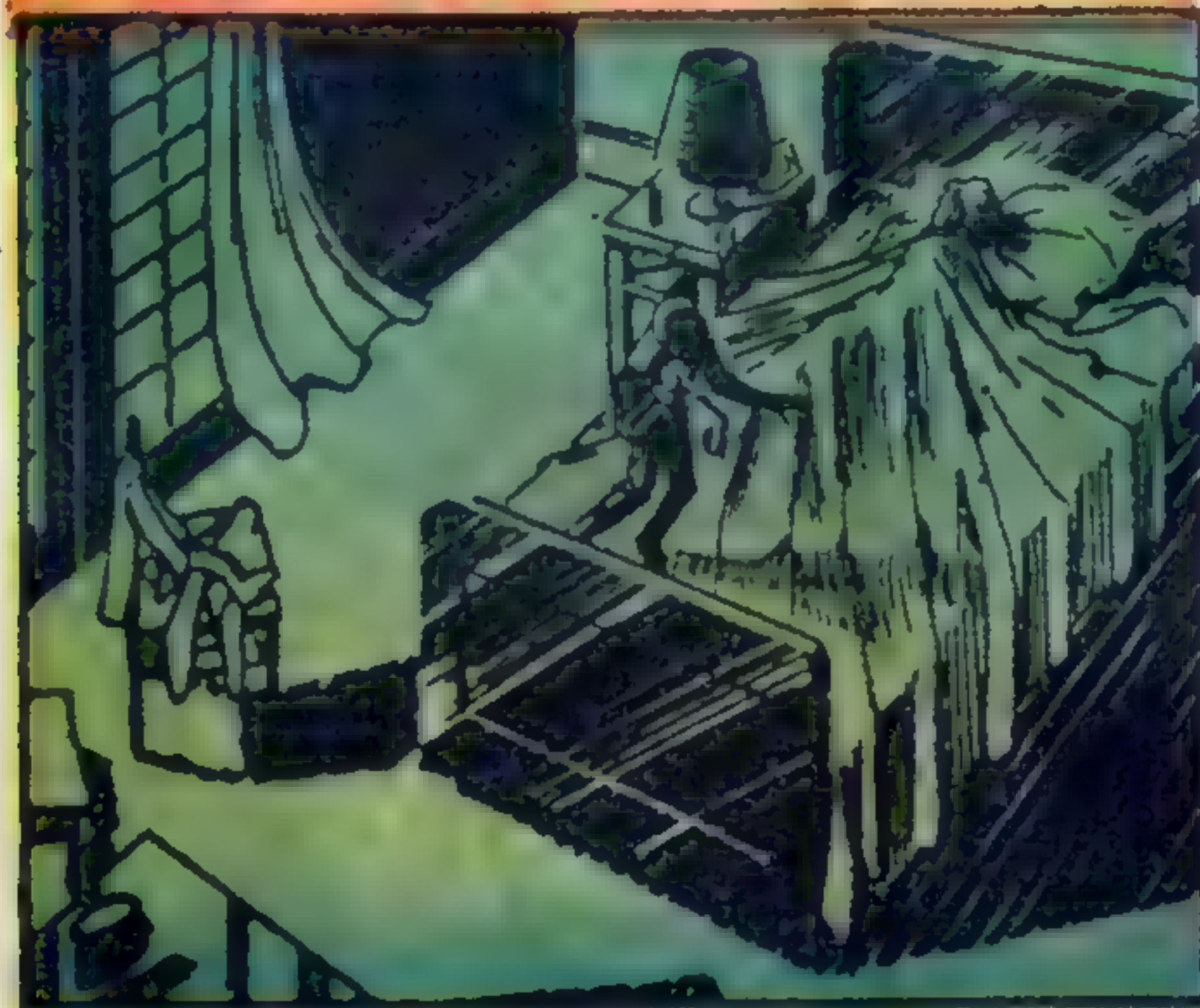


FURIOUS AT HIS FAILURE TO KILL DANE, THE EVIL
HUGO TRIES HIS EVIL INCANTATIONS AGAIN ON
THE FOLLOWING NIGHT...





AND CLIMBS ONTO THE VENTRILOQUIST'S BED LIKE A MURDER RAT IN SEARCH OF PREY...



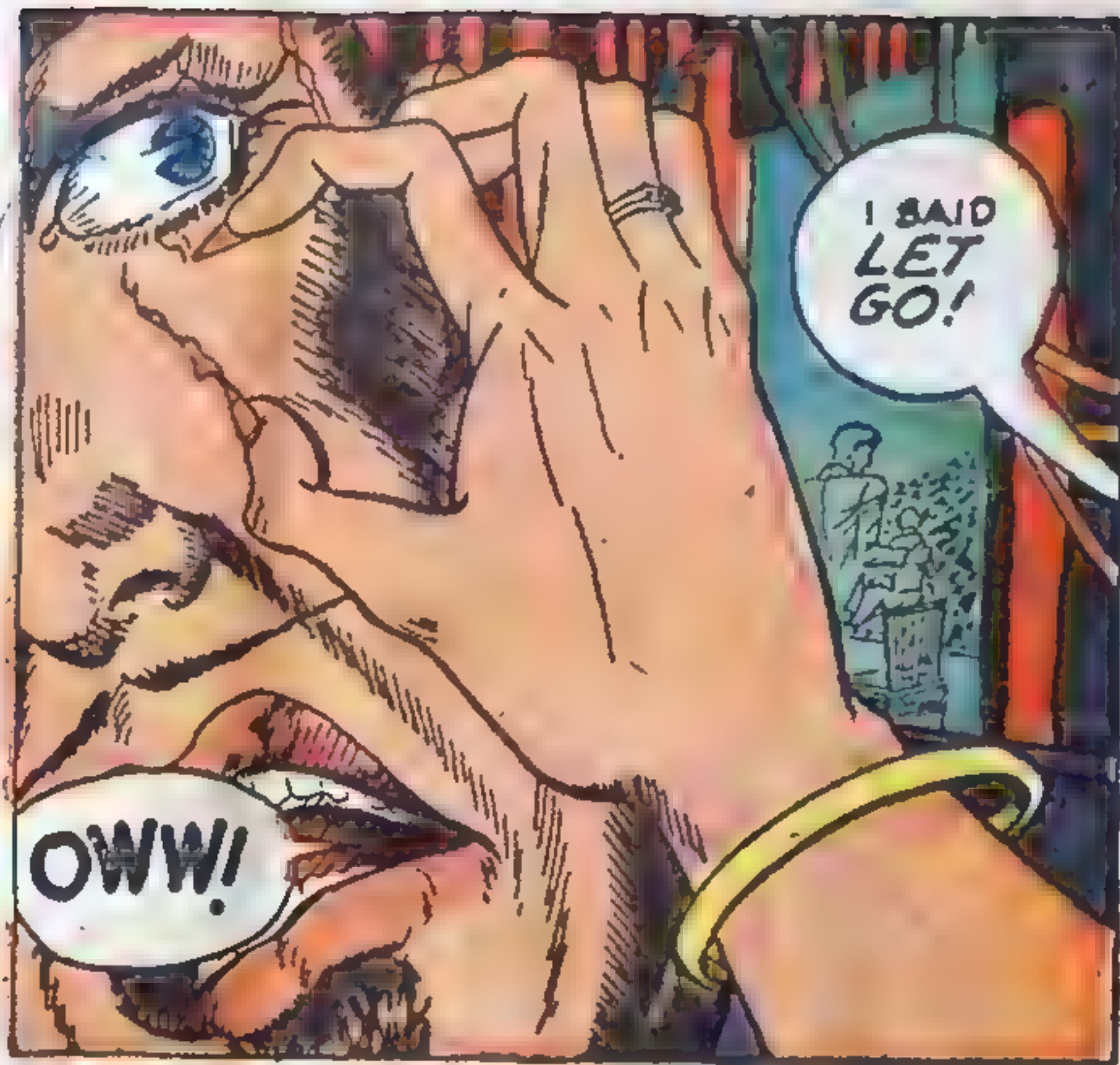
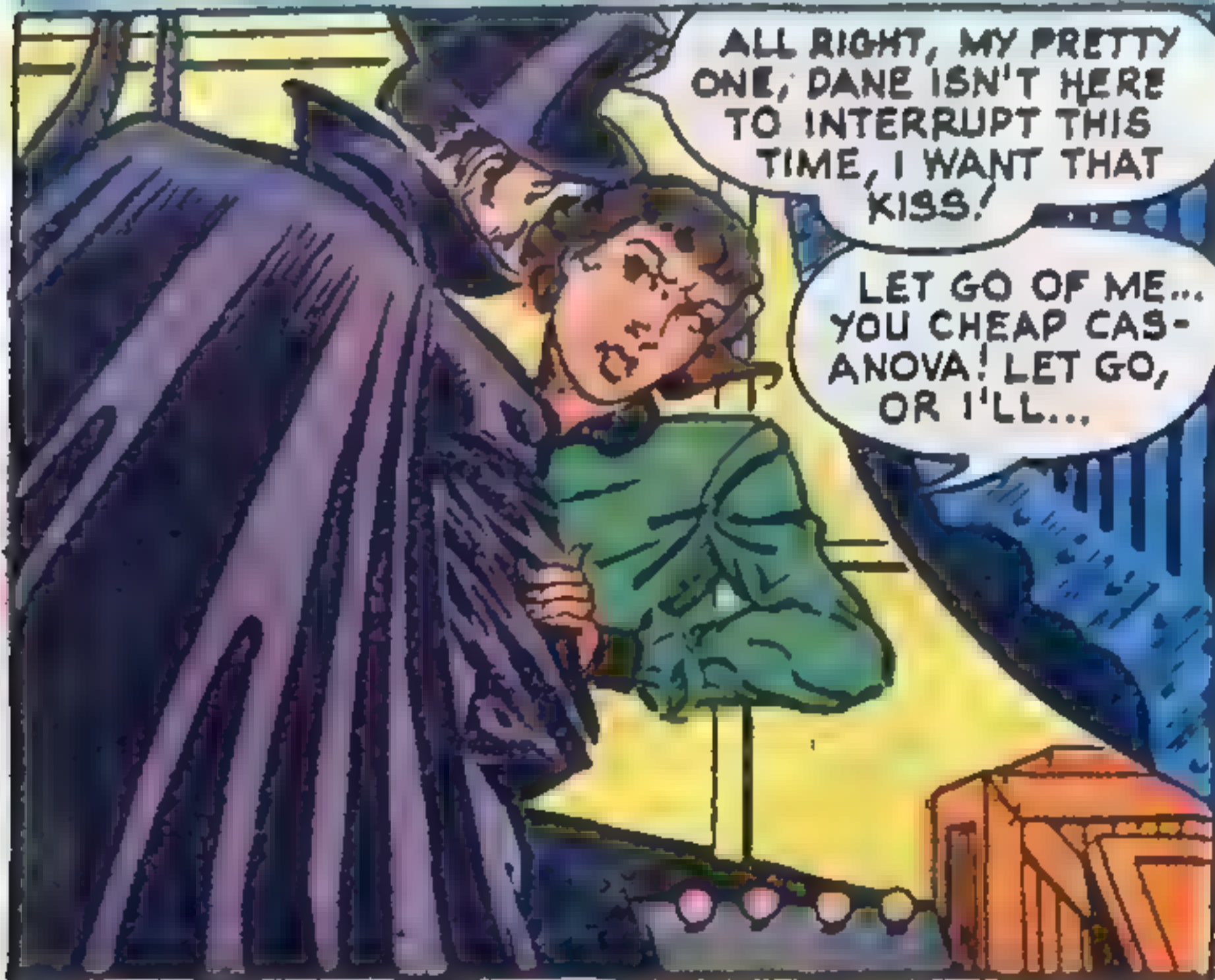
ONCE AGAIN THE DUNNY, POSSESSED BY THE SHADOW OF THE EVIL MAGICIAN, COMES TO LIFE...



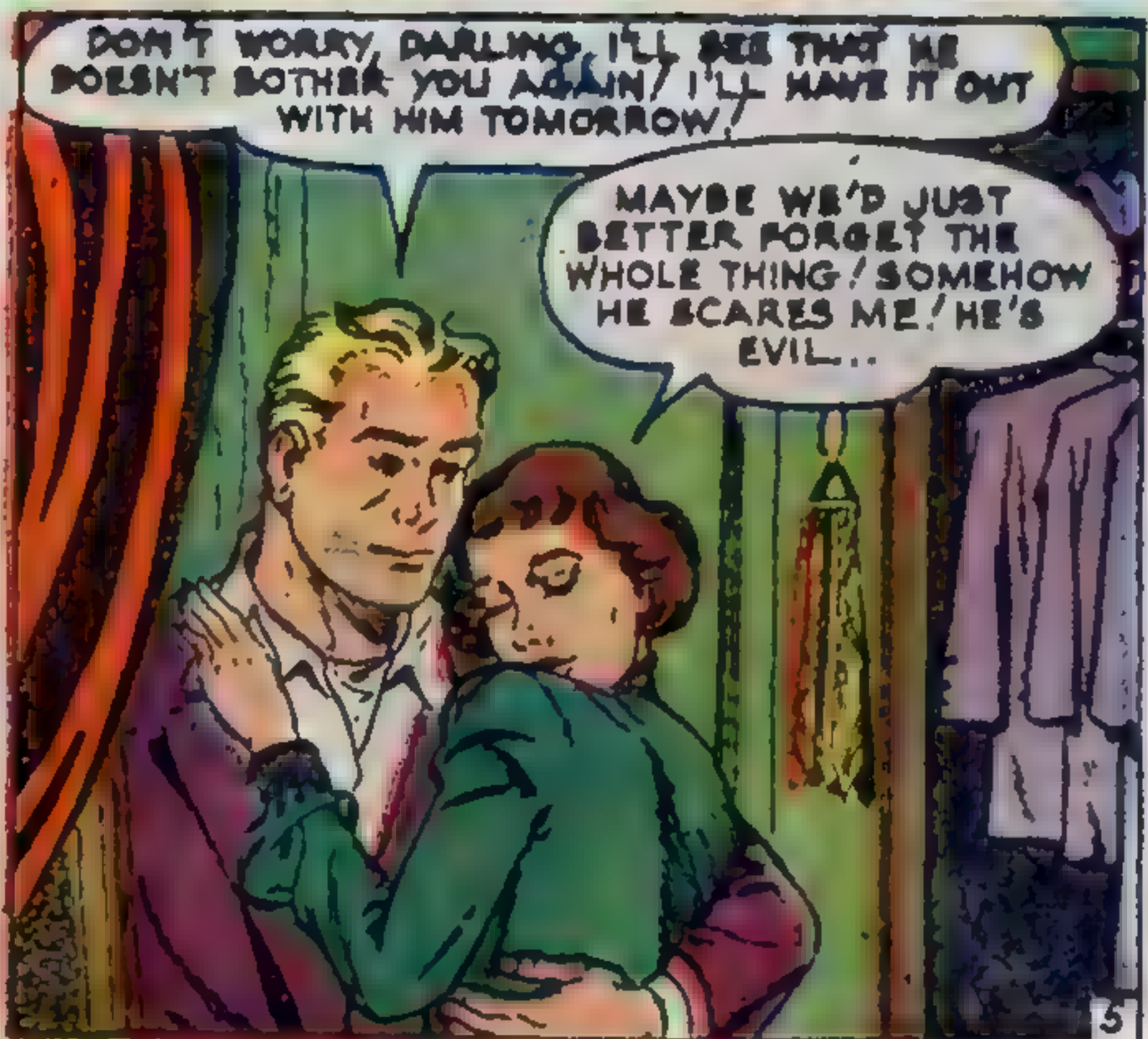
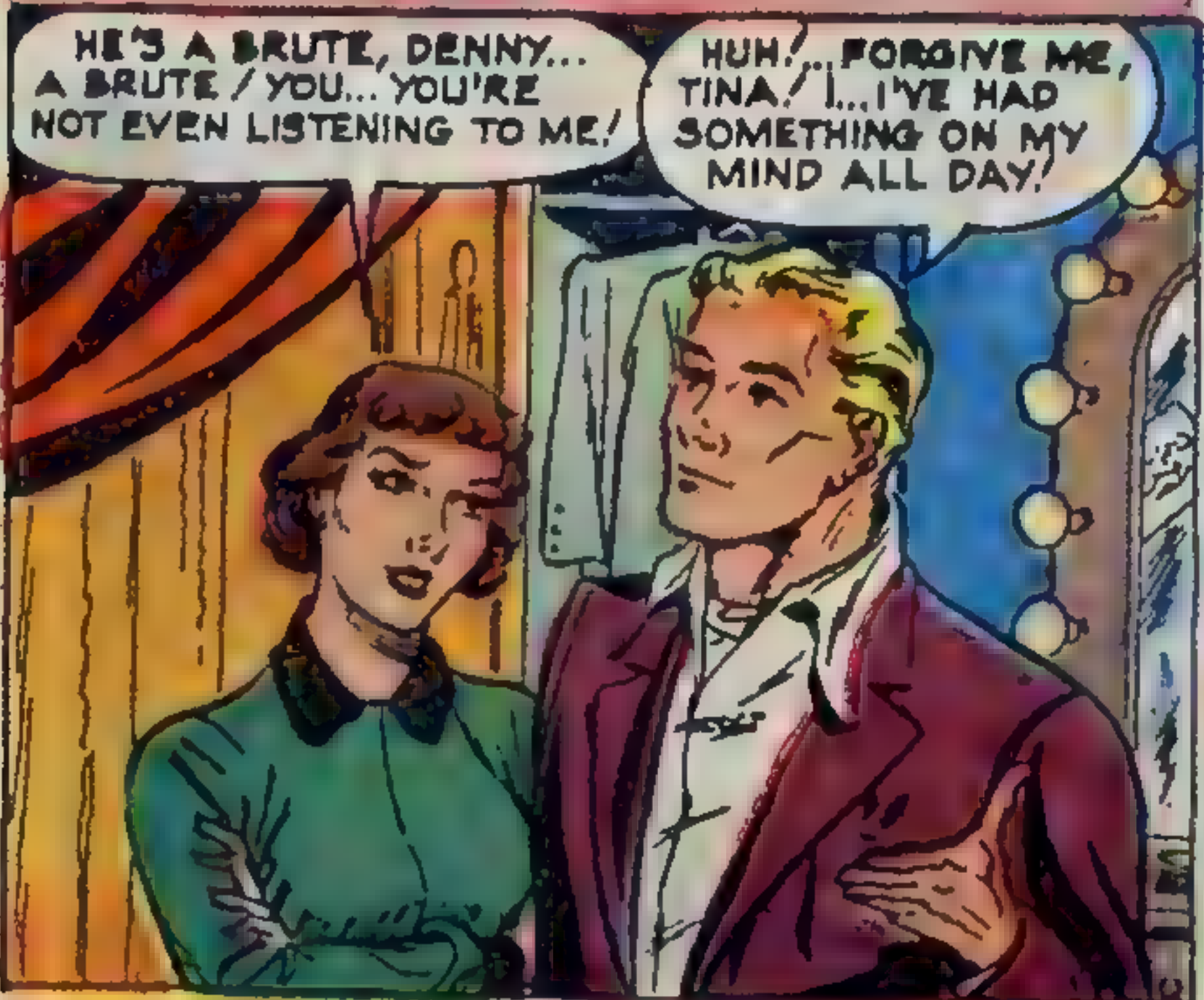
BUT ONCE MORE FATE, OR THE POWER OF GOOD, STEPS IN, AS THE MURDEROUS DOLL PREPARES TO STRIKE...



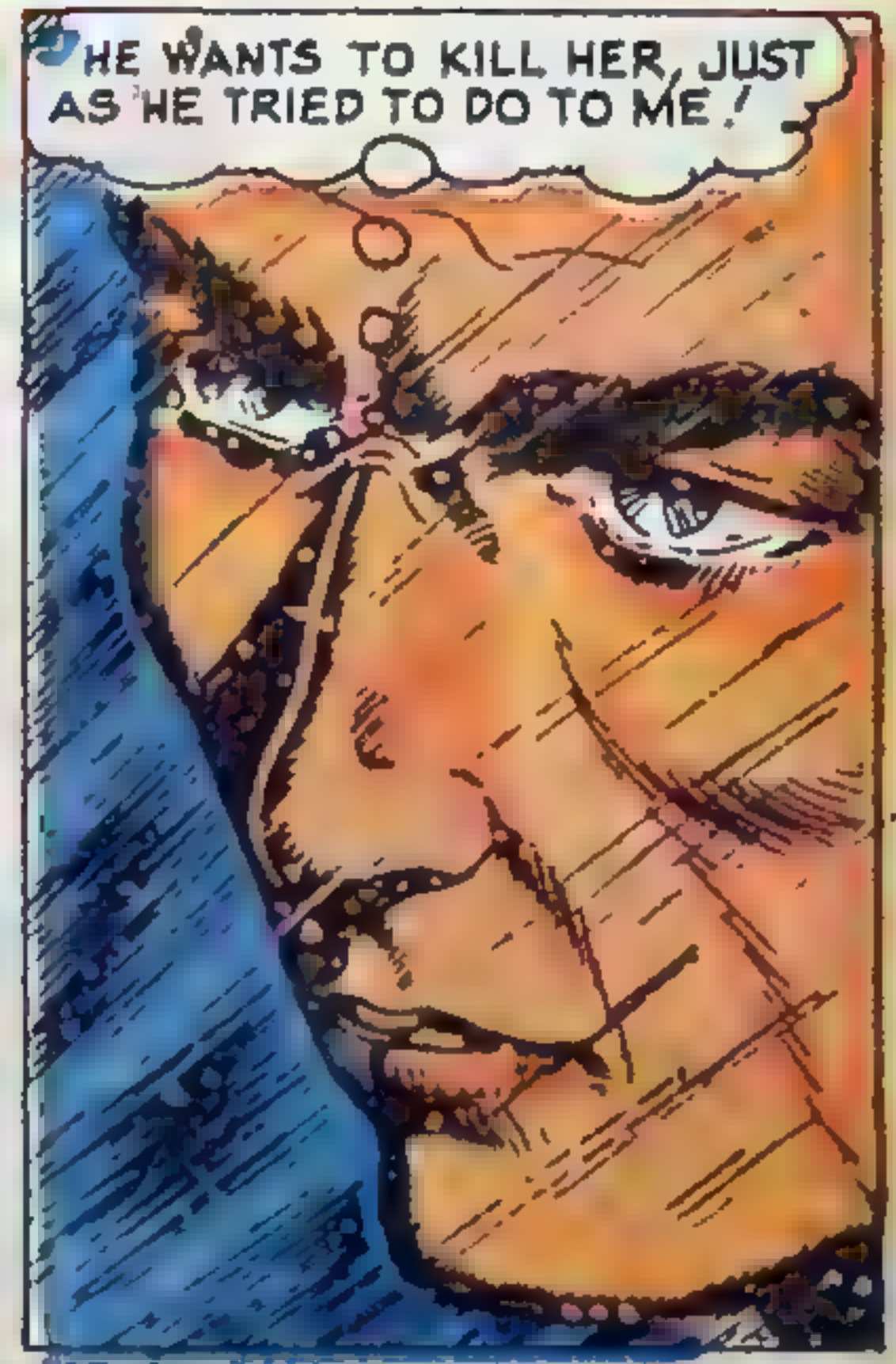
THE NEXT EVENING AS DENNY WORKS ON STAGE, THE VILLANOUS MAGICIAN MAKES A PLAY FOR TINA AGAIN...



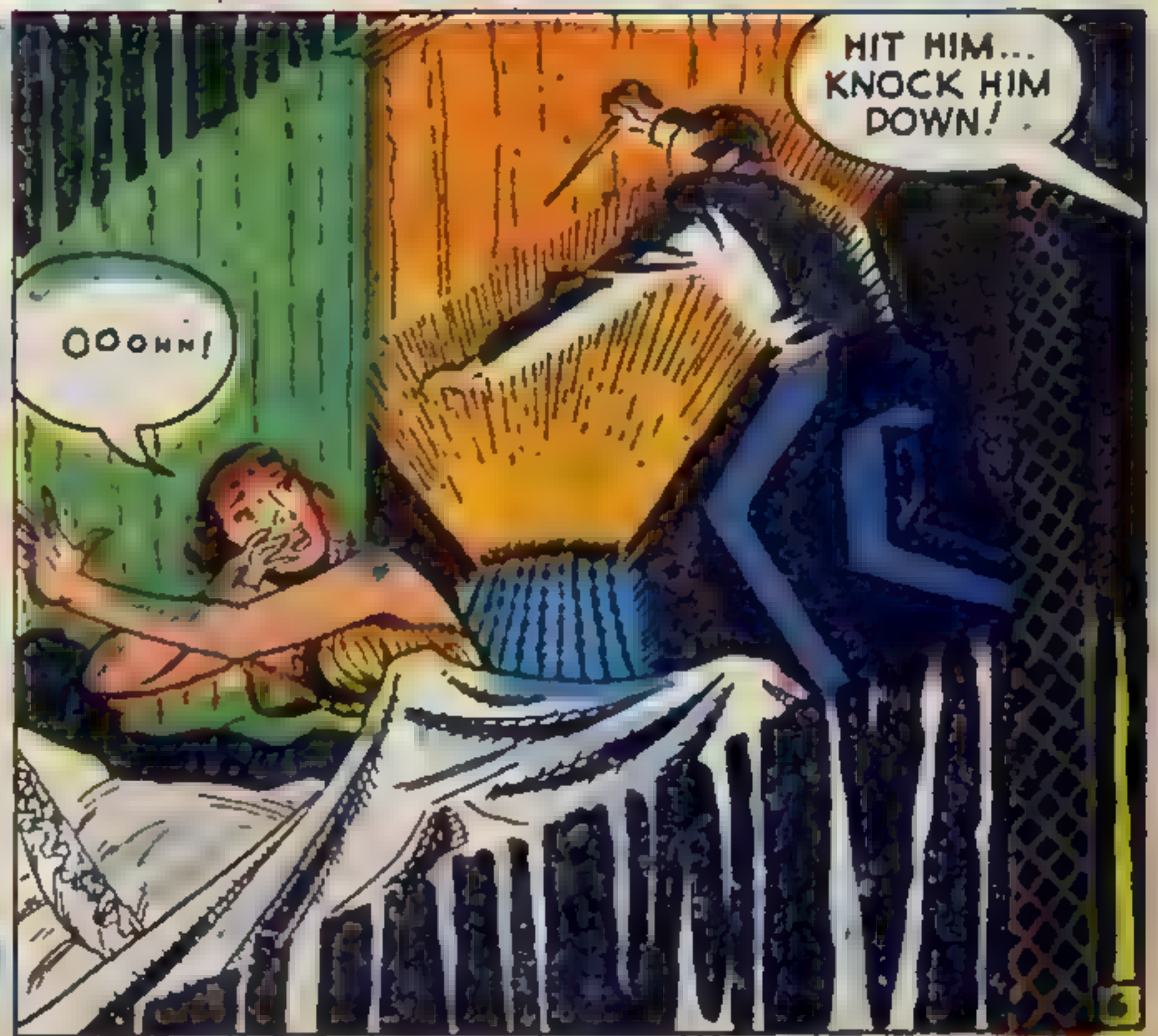
WHEN DENNY'S ACT IS OVER, TINA TELLS HIM WHAT HAPPENED...



THAT NIGHT, WORRIED BY THE EVENTS OF THE PAST TWO DAYS, DENNY TRIES TO STAY AWAKE! HOWEVER, HE DOZES OFF, ONLY TO WAKE UP AND SEE...



DENNY ENTERS THE ROOM AS HECTOR SCRAMBLES HIS WAY ONTO TINA'S BED...





AS THE
TERRIFIED
GIRL
BRINGS
THE LAMP
UP TO
PROTECT
HERSELF,
THE
DUMMY
LUNGES
WITH
THE
DAGGER...
IT'S
TIP
BREAKS
THE
BULB,
ENTERS
THE
BROKEN
SOCKET
AND...



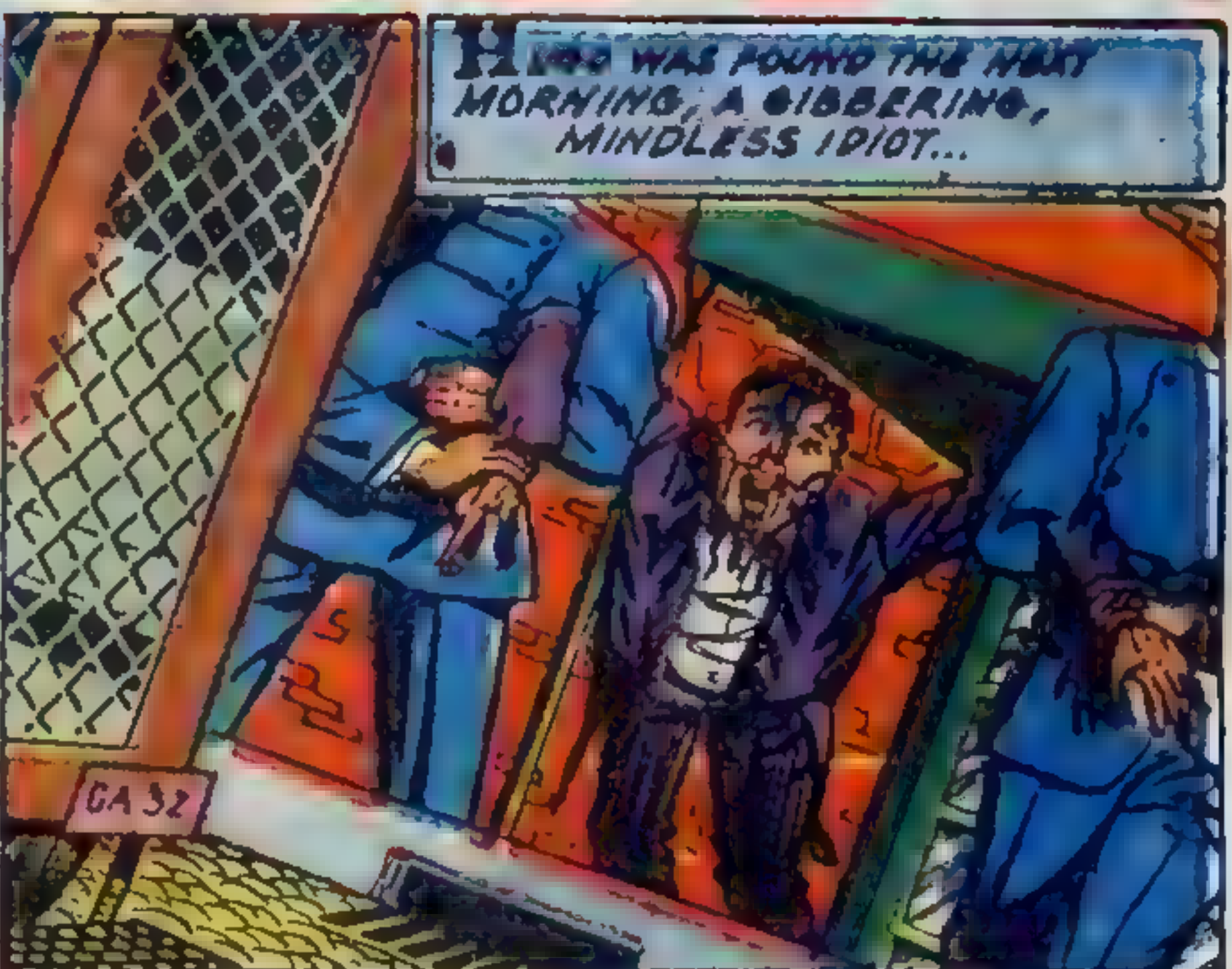
A FLASH OF FLAME RUNS UP HECTOR'S ARM AND
THE DUMMY BURSTS INTO FLAME...



WHILE AT HUGO'S HOUSE...



AS THEY WATCH THE DUMMY BURN, A HORRIBLE
THING OCCURS...



FROM THAT DAY TO THIS, DENNY BANE
HAS NEVER TOUCHED A VENTRILOQUIST'S
PUMMY... WOULD YOU?

The End

NIGHTMARE!

I WAS on the steamship *Morrow* booked from Liverpool to New York. She was a freighter and there was only one other passenger aboard beside myself: a young woman, accompanied by her servant. Her name was Janette Harford.

In the few days since we had sailed we had warm weather and unclouded skies. The skipper, a man of few words, paid little attention to us as he went about his duties. Alone, most of the time, Janette and I became very well acquainted.

Being thrown together so much I had plenty of time to analyze and define the novel feeling which she inspired in me. There was something odd about her, but something that drew me to her. I knew it wasn't love, but something different, an attraction that I couldn't throw off.

One evening as we sat on deck I spoke to her about it. For a moment she was silent, with averted face. I began to fear that I had hurt her feelings. Then she fixed her luminous eyes upon me and looked long and gravely at my face.

In an instant I found my mind filled with as strange and frightening fancy as ever entered human consciousness. It seemed as if she were looking at me, not with, but through those eyes—from an immeasurable distance behind them. I got the eerie impression that a number of other persons, men, women, and children, upon whose faces I caught strange and frightened expressions, clustered about her. All trying to look at me through those same eyes.

The ship, the ocean, the sky all had vanished. I was aware of nothing but the figures in this strange and fantastic scene. Then, all at once, darkness fell upon me. Soon, I became aware of my former surroundings of deck and cabins. Slowly they became clearer, as things do when one becomes accustomed to very dim light.

Miss Harford had closed her eyes and was leaning back in her chair, apparently asleep. The book she had been reading lay

in her lap. Somehow I was seized with a certain curiosity and I picked it up. It was a copy of a rare and curious book "*Denneker's Meditations*." Her index finger had been resting on this paragraph:

"To many are given the privilege to be drawn away, to be apart from the body for awhile. At times these people draw with them the weaker ones, and their souls travel along strange paths together, while their bodies remain unknowing."

Of a sudden Janette rose with a shudder. The sun had sunk below the horizon, but it wasn't cold. There wasn't a breath of wind, there wasn't a cloud in the sky, yet not a star was visible.

From above came the sound of hurried trampling. The captain, hastily summoned from below, joined the first mate, who stood staring at the barometer. "Impossible! I tell you it is impossible!" I heard him exclaim.

An hour later the form of Janette Harford, invisible in the darkness and spray, was torn from my grasp by the awful suction of the sinking ship. I held on as long as I could and then fainted in the wreckage of the mast to which I had lashed myself.

I awoke to find myself lying in a berth amid the familiar surroundings of the state-room of a steamer. On the couch opposite me sat a man, half-undressed for bed reading a book. I recognized the face of my friend, Gordon Doyle, whom I had met in Liverpool just before my embarkation. He was to sail on the "*Elizabeth*" and had urged me to accompany him.

For a few seconds I stared; then I spoke his name. He simply said, "Well," and turned a page in the book he held without removing his eyes from the page.

"Doyle!" I cried out impatiently, "Did they save her?"

He looked up with a puzzled look and then grinned. He evidently thought me but half-awake.

"Her?" he asked. "Whom do you mean?"

"Why, Janette Harford," I replied.

His amused smile turned to amazement. For a long moment he stared at me fixedly, saying nothing.

"You'll tell me after awhile," I went on. "I suppose you'll tell me what happened after awhile."

I raised my head, "What ship is this?" I asked.

Doyle stared again. "This is the Elizabeth, bound to New York, where we should land tomorrow. This is cabin 8A, upper deck containing passengers Gordon Doyle; ditto lunatic, Mr. William Jarrett. These two distinguished travelers embarked together, but they are about to part. Because if you don't tell me what you are talking about I'm going to pitch you overboard."

I sat bolt upright. "Do you mean to tell me that I have been a passenger on this liner for the last three days or so?"

"Yes, you have. This is the 3rd of July."

"Oh no!" I groaned. "There is something terribly wrong here. Please be serious. Wasn't I rescued from the wreck of the S.S. Morrow?"

Doyle changed color, and approaching me, put his hand on my shoulder. He drew a deep breath and spoke, "What do you know of Janette Harford?" he asked very calmly.

"First tell me what you know of her," I replied.

Doyle rose and paced the room for a moment, as if trying to decide what to do. Then seating himself on the couch again, spoke.

"Why shouldn't I? I am engaged to marry Janette Harford. I met her a year ago in London. Her family is one of the wealthiest in Devonshire. They wouldn't hear of our engagement and we eloped—I should say are eloping rather. We were both to sail on the "Morrow," but urgent business kept me behind. Janette went ahead, and I am following on the Elizabeth. Because this boat is so much faster we should dock at about the same time. We both thought it better that Janette get away before her

family was able to cause any trouble."

I lay still on my bed—so still I hardly breathed. Doyle took no notice and continued.

"By the way she is only an adopted daughter of the Harford's. Her mother was killed by being thrown from a horse while hunting. Her father, mad with grief, did away with himself the same day. No one ever claimed the child, and after a reasonable time they adopted her. She has grown up in the belief that she is their real daughter.

I shook my head and said. "Gordon, what book are you reading?"

"Oh," he answered, "it's called 'Denker's Meditations.' It's a rum sort of book. Janette gave it to me. She happened to have two copies. Want to see it?"

He tossed the volume over to me and it opened as it fell. On one of the exposed pages there was a marked passage. I picked it up and looked at it. What I saw sent an electric thrill through my body. It said:

"To many are given the privilege to be drawn away, to be apart from the body for awhile. At times these people draw with them the weaker ones, and their souls travel along strange paths together, while their bodies remain unknowing."

It was with difficulty I mastered my agitation. "She had—she has—a very singular taste in reading," I managed to say at last.

"Yes," said Doyle. "And now, perhaps you will have the kindness to explain how you know her name and that of the ship she sailed in."

For a moment I thought of the strange nightmare I had just had. Should I tell him? Was it really a dream? I finally decided against it.

"You talked of her in your sleep," I said.

A day later we came into New York Harbor. But the "Morrow" was never heard of again.

The foregoing account is a true story of the strange incidents surrounding the mysterious disappearance of the S. S. Morrow.

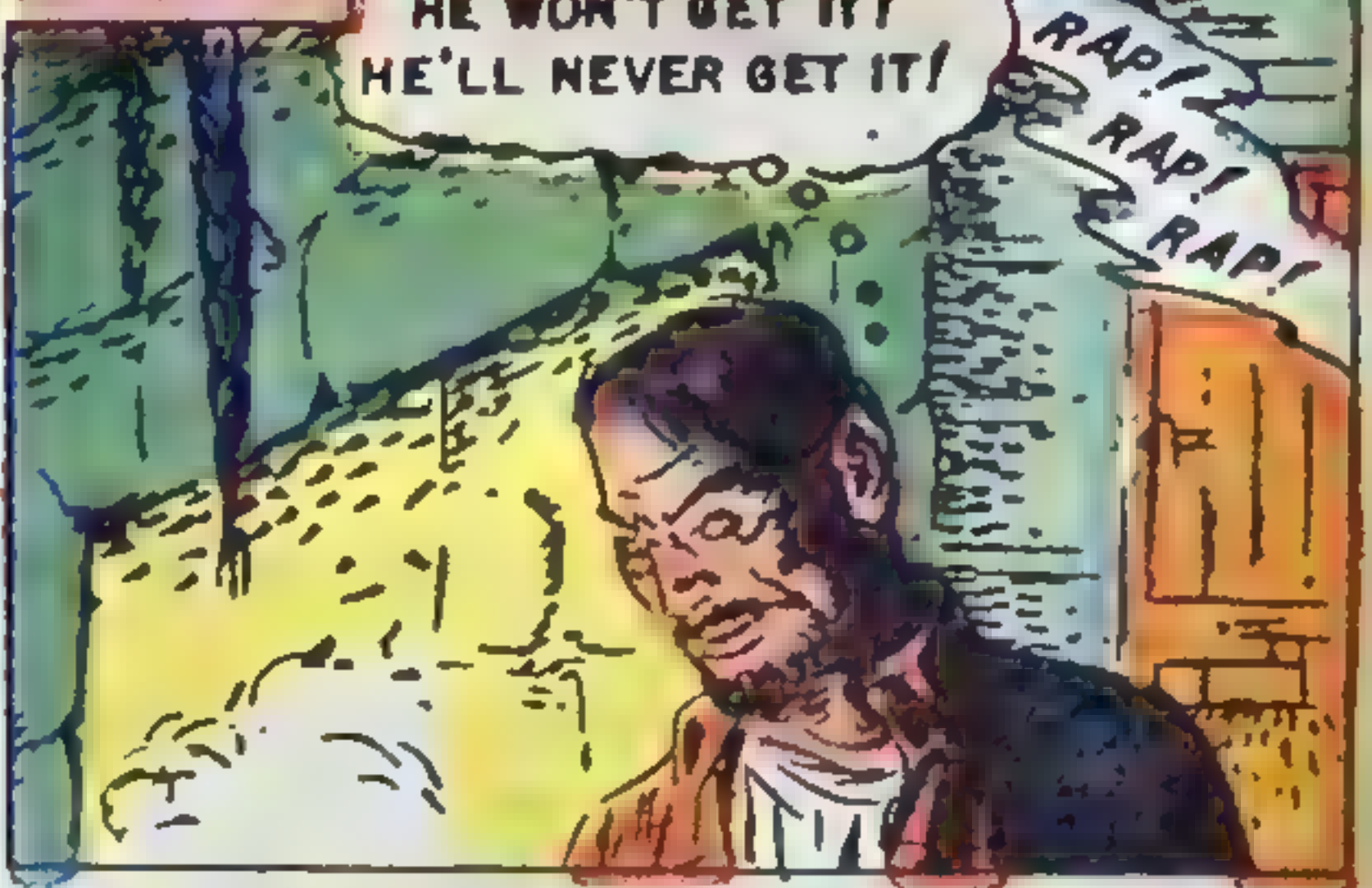
DEATH CLAIMS HIS OWN

WHISPERED BY LONELY PROSPECTORS AS THEY HUDDLE AROUND THE DYING EMBERS OF THEIR CAMPFIRES IS A STRANGE STORY OF A WINTER MIDNIGHT WHEN MADNESS HOLDS SWAY AND "DEATH CLAIMS HIS OWN"....

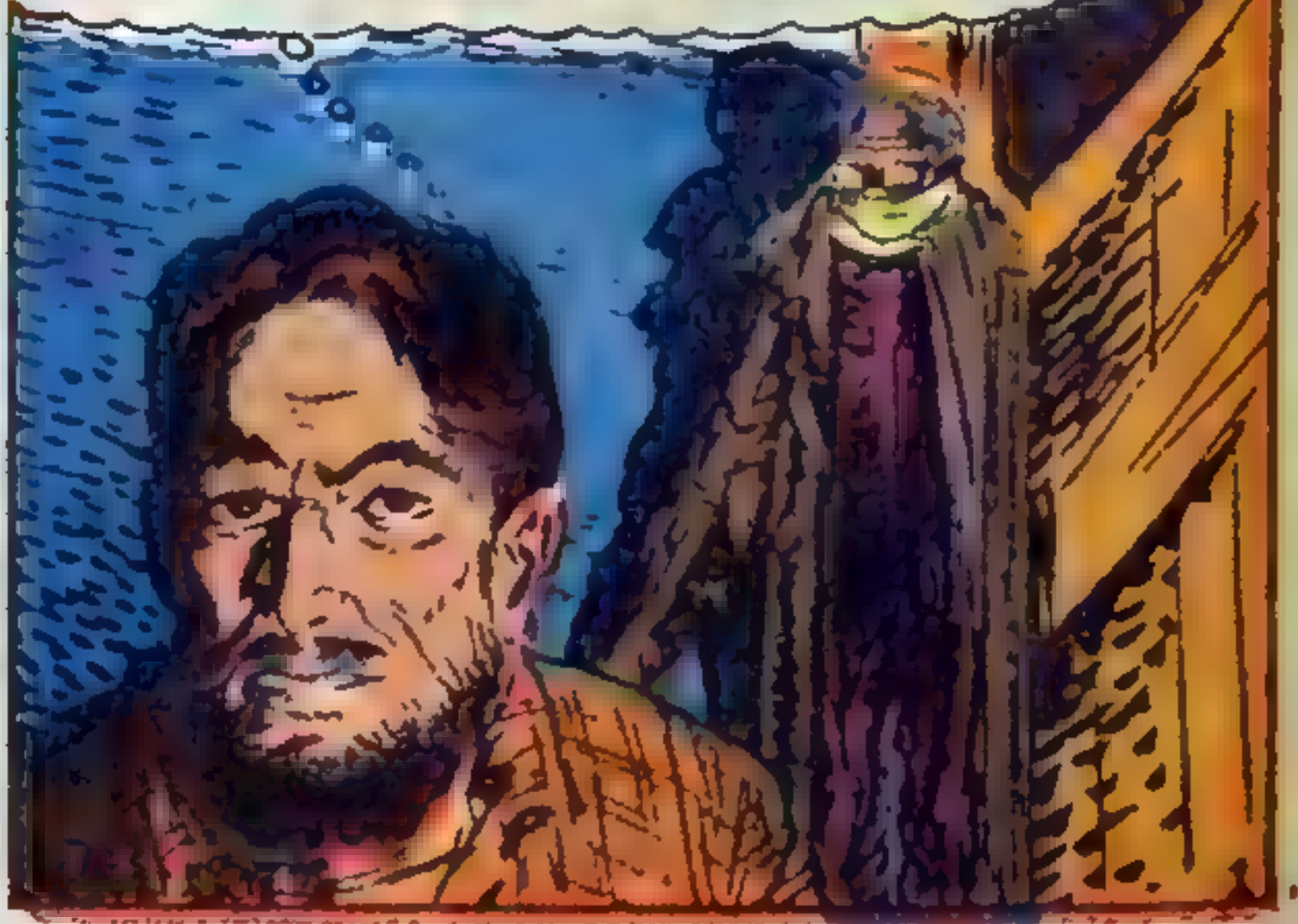


THE CABIN OF FENLEY DOANE, SOLE INHABITANT OF ROARING GULCH, A DESOLATE AREA IN THE ROCKIES...

HE WON'T GET IT!
HE'LL NEVER GET IT!

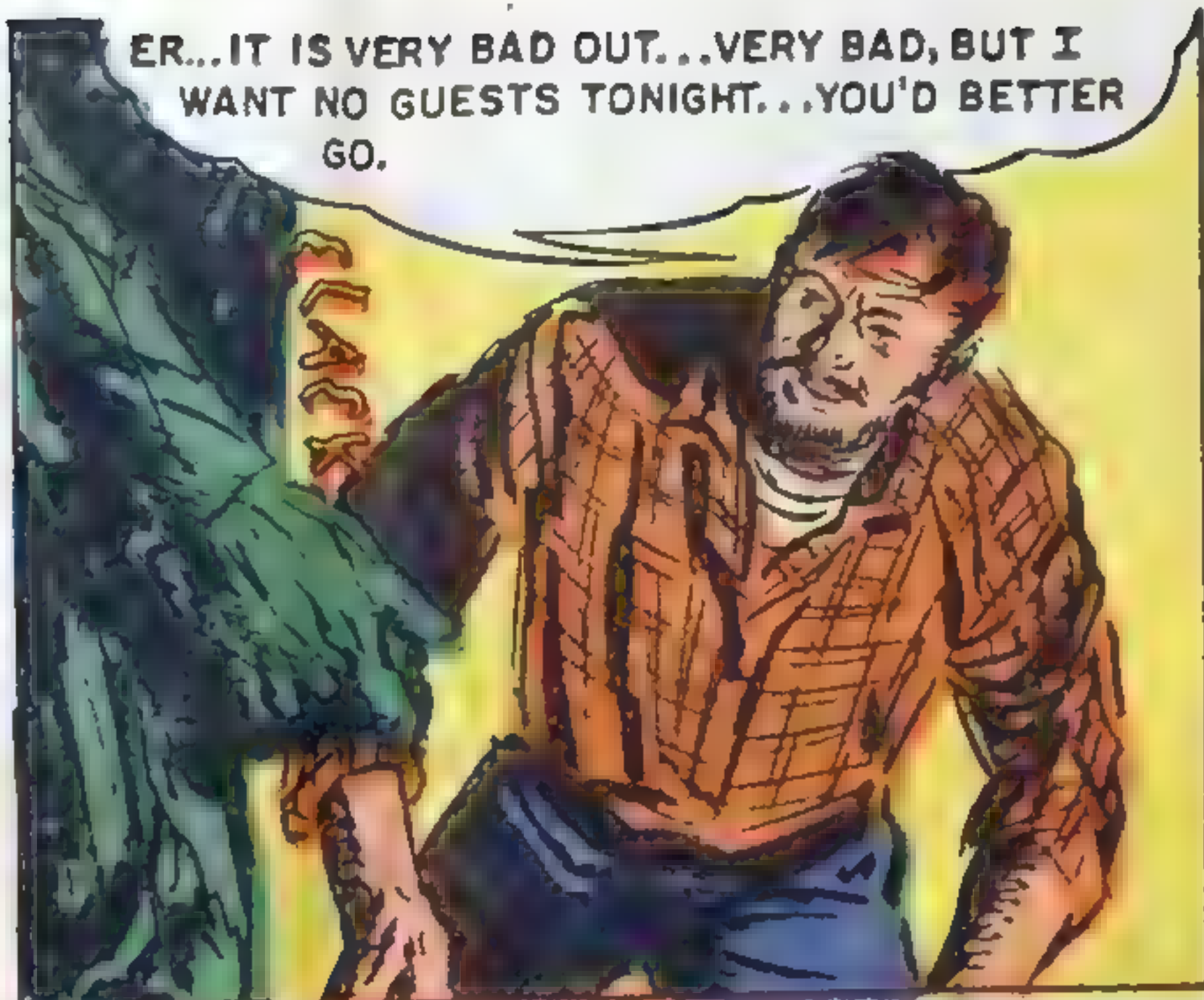


TWO YEARS! TWO YEARS SINCE EVERYBODY HAS GONE... BUT HE WON'T GET IT!





EH? WHO...WHO ARE YOU?



ER...IT IS VERY BAD OUT...VERY BAD, BUT I WANT NO GUESTS TONIGHT...YOU'D BETTER GO.



YOU'VE BROUGHT THE COLD IN WITH YOU...I'M SORRY, BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO GO...DON'T YOU HEAR ME? LEAVE!

SUDDENLY THE WIND RISES AND THE FIRE FLICKERS LOW, CASTING STRANGE SHADOWS. FROM OUTSIDE COMES THE EERIE HOWL OF THE WOLVES....

WHAT'S THAT? SOMETHING VERY STRANGE GOES ON TONIGHT...MAYBE WE HAD BETTER BOTH LEAVE. THERE HAVE BEEN DARK DOINGS IN THIS CABIN. I... I'LL TELL YOU EVERYTHING.....



"TWO YEARS AGO, JUST WHEN THE NEW GOLD STRIKE MADE THIS A GHOST TOWN, I WAS RETURNING TO MY CABIN..."

PHEW! IT'S BEEN A LONG DAY. I'M GLAD TO BE BACK.



"UPON ENTERING, I SURPRISED A THIEF ABOUT TO STEAL MY GOLD DUST..."

AIEE! MISSA DOANE!

AH LEE! YOU THIEF! YOU WERE TRYING TO STEAL MY GOLD!





THIS IS THE LAST TIME YOU'RE GOING TO STEAL, AH LEE! I'M GOING TO KILL YOU!

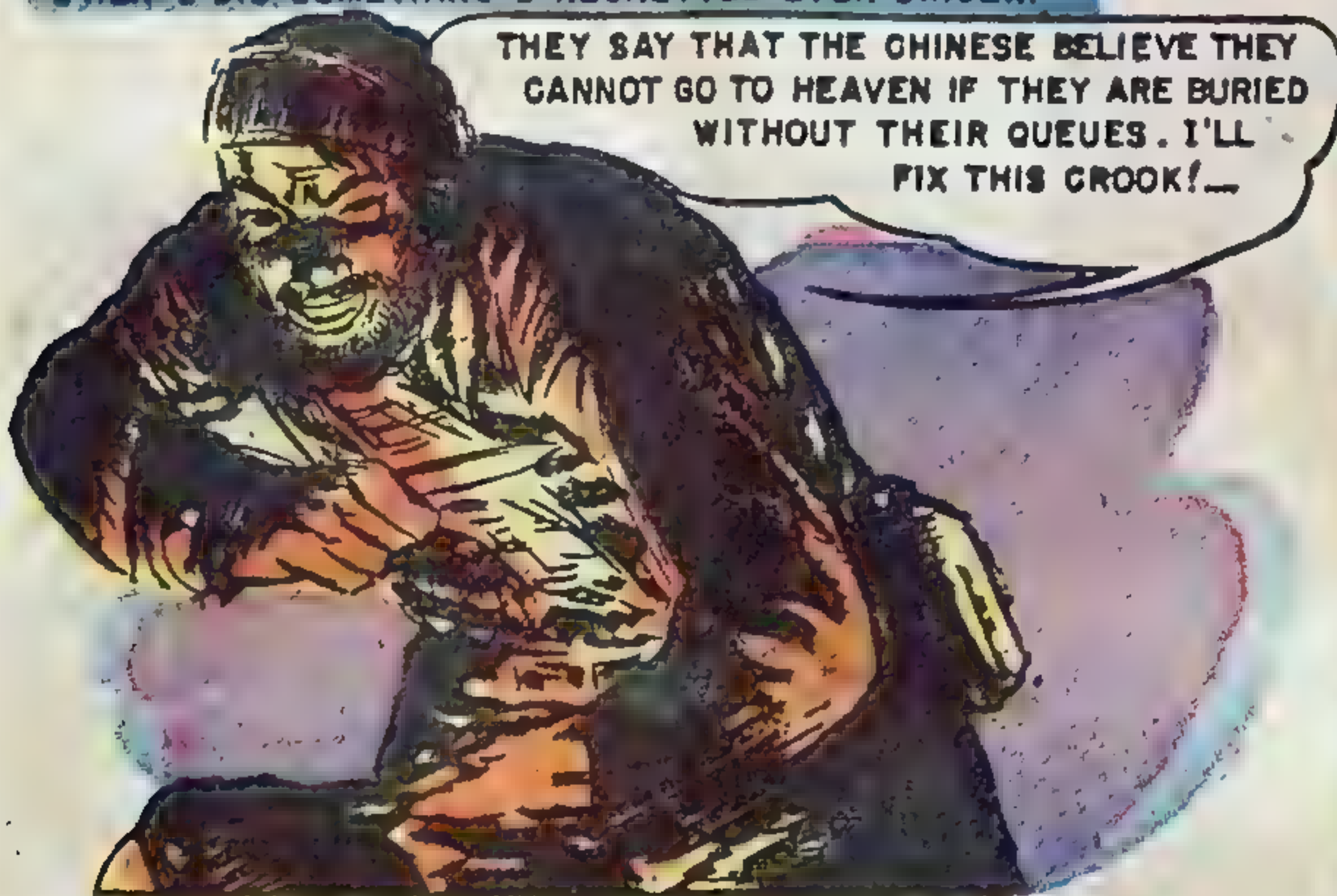
NO! NO!
NO SHOOT!



THE TOWN'S EMPTY! EVERYBODY'S GONE. SHERIFF, JUDGE, ALL OF 'EM. SO I'M GOING TO DISPENSE JUSTICE MYSELF! THEY'D ONLY HANG YOU ANYWAY!...

NO!...
UNHHH!

"THEN I DID SOMETHING I REGRETTED EVER SINCE..."

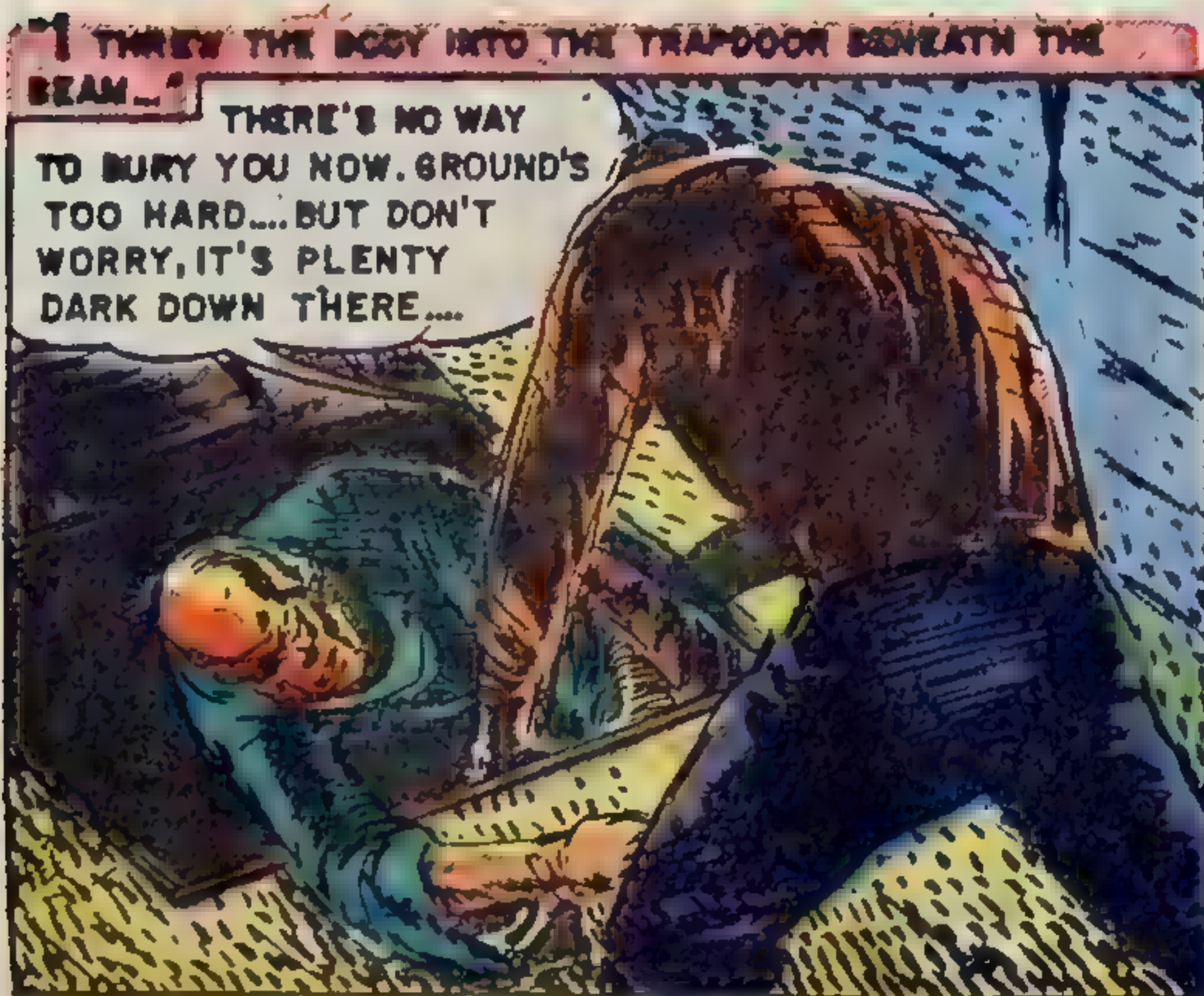


THEY SAY THAT THE CHINESE BELIEVE THEY CANNOT GO TO HEAVEN IF THEY ARE BURIED WITHOUT THEIR QUEUES. I'LL FIX THIS CROOK!...

"WHEN I FINISHED I NAILED THE QUEUE TO A BEAM, I WANTED TO MAKE SURE HE'D NEVER GET IT..."



I'VE HEARD OF MEN COMING BACK FOR THEIR POSSESSIONS FROM THE DEAD. LET'S SEE AH LEE COME BACK FOR THIS!



"I THREW THE BODY INTO THE TRAPDOOR BENEATH THE BEAM..."

THERE'S NO WAY TO BURY YOU NOW. GROUND'S TOO HARD... BUT DON'T WORRY, IT'S PLENTY DARK DOWN THERE....



... AND JUST TO BE SAFE I'M GOING TO MAKE SURE YOU STAY DOWN THERE.

BUT HE COMES BACK! HE COMES BACK! SOMEDAY HE'LL GET OUT AND...NO! HE'LL NEVER GET IT! NEVER!



APPARENTLY EXHAUSTED BY HIS STORY, DOANE FALLS ASLEEP BY THE FIRE AS THE STRANGER REMOVES HIS COAT AND TAKES A GUN FROM THE SHELF....



YOU DIDN'T TOUCH THIS, DID YOU? ...I'VE GOT TO GUARD IT! THAT'S WHY I STAY HERE!



THAT'S THE STORY... EVERY BIT OF IT...YOU BELIEVE ME, DON'T YOU? YOU *DO* BELIEVE ME?



A FEW MOMENTS LATER DOANE AWAKES WITH A START...

WH...WHAT HAPPENED...SO YOU'RE STILL HERE, EH? I TOLD YOU YOU CAN'T STAY HERE.



NERVOUSLY DOANE WALKS BACK TO THE FIRE... SUDDENLY....

WHAT'S THAT!...THE TRAP DOOR! IT'S OPENING!...





FROM THE DANK HOLE BENEATH THE FLOOR,
THE BODY OF THE DEAD CHINESE RISES...
REACHING... REACHING FOR HIS MISSING QUEUE...



DON'T LET HIM GET
THAT QUEUE! DON'T
LET HIM GET IT!

THE DEAD MAN, IN DESPERATION,
HANGS ON TO HIS MISSING QUEUE
BY HIS TEETH AS HIS HANDS SEEK
TO TEAR IT FROM THE BEAM...

GET HIM DOWN! PLEASE!
PLEASE! I'LL TELL THE TRUTH...
ONLY DON'T LET HIM GET THAT
QUEUE... HE WANTS
TO STRANGLE ME
WITH IT!



AT THAT INSTANT A SHOT RINGS OUT
AS THE STRANGE ONE WITH THE GREEN
GOOGLES FIRES AT THE SWINGING
FIGURE...



AND THE MURDERED
CHINESE FALLS INTO THE
OPEN TRAPDOOR OUT-
ING HIS SEVERED QUEUE...



AN INSTANT LATER THE TRAPDOOR
CLAPS SHUT WITH A REVERBERATING
CRASH...



THEN, WITH A HIDEOUS HISS, THE SATANIC STRANGER DISAPPEARS UP THE CHIMNEY IN A FLASH OF FLAME... AT THE SAME TIME, THE OLD ONE BEGINS TO FADE AWAY...

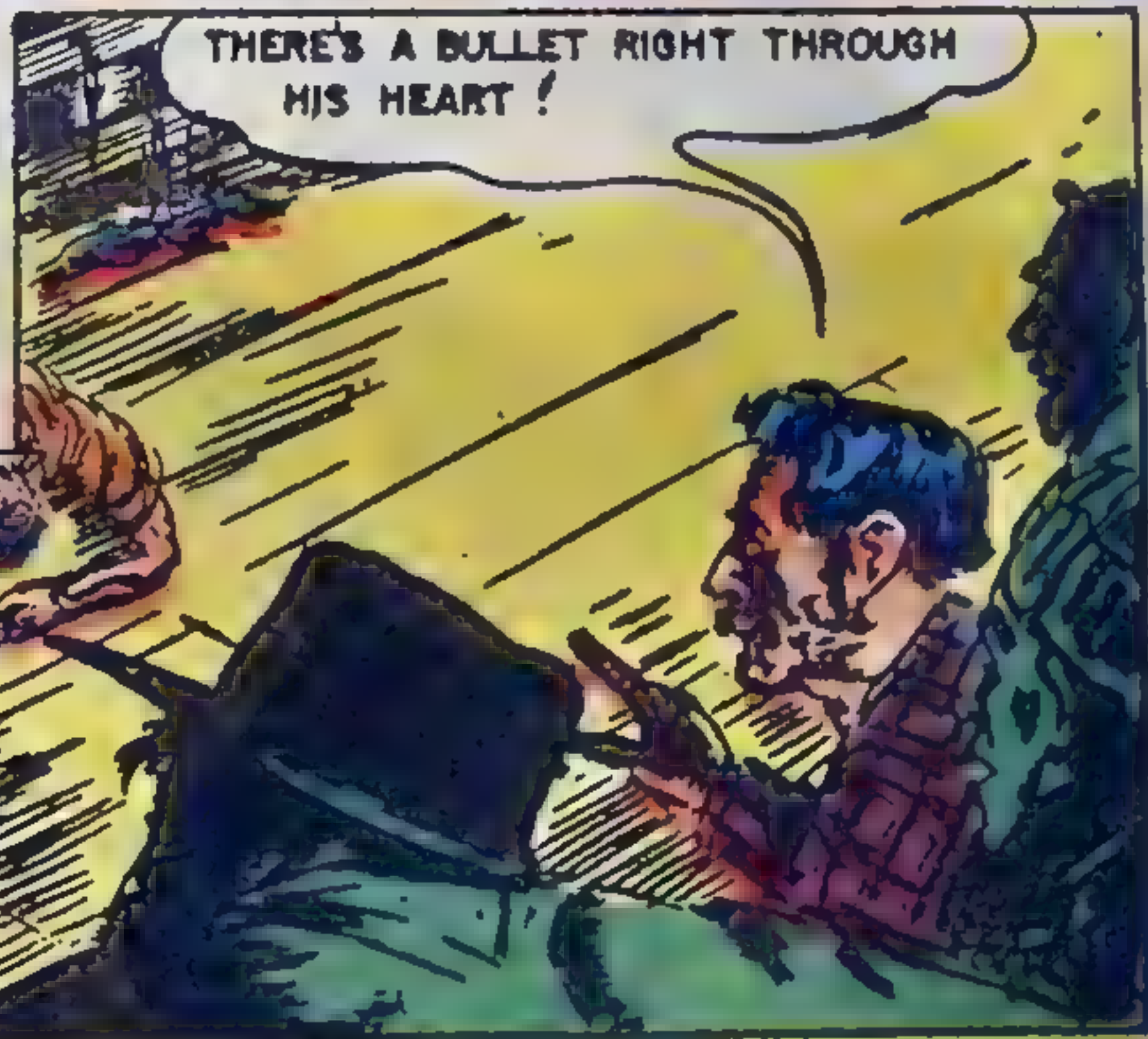


EARLY THAT SPRING, THEY FOUND DOANE, STILL CROUCHED BESIDE THE FIREPLACE, A LOOK OF HIDEOUS TERROR ON HIS FACE...

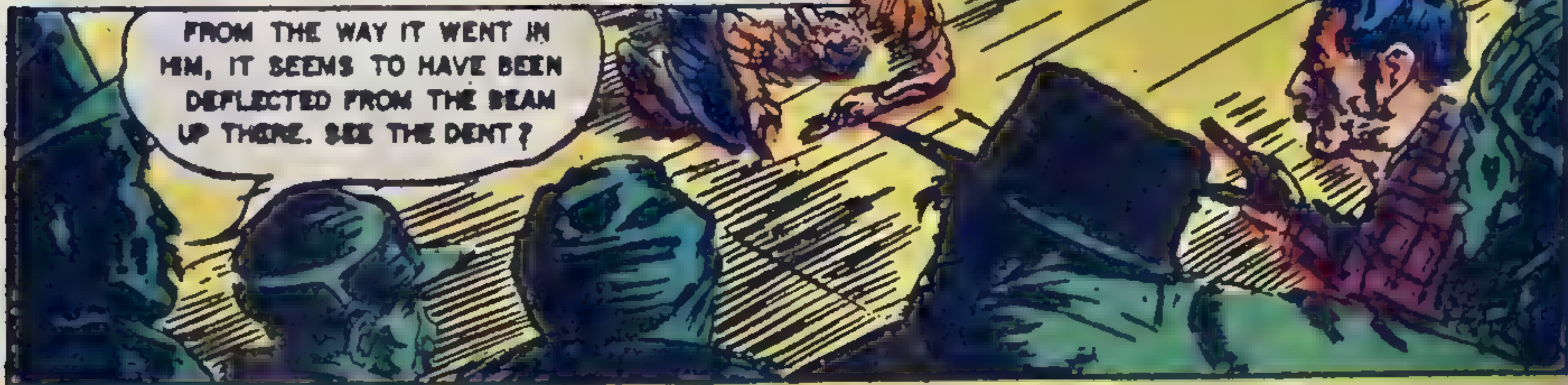


LOOK, THERE HE IS... BY THE FIREPLACE! HE'S DEAD!

LOOK AT THAT FACE! HE MUST HAVE SEEN SOMETHING HORRIBLE!



THERE'S A BULLET RIGHT THROUGH HIS HEART!



FROM THE WAY IT WENT IN HIM, IT SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN DEFLECTED FROM THE BEAM UP THERE. SEE THE DENT?

THEN ONE OF THE MINERS DISCOVERS A PILE OF MOULDY CLOTHES...

HEY, BEN, LOOK AT THESE CLOTHES. THEY LOOK AS IF SOMEONE WAS BURIED IN THEM.



YEAH. LET'S SEE THOSE.

YOU KNOW WHAT? THESE ARE THE CLOTHES SAM KLAU WAS BURIED IN FIVE YEARS AGO! I KNOW BECAUSE I DONATED THEM FOR HIS FUNERAL!

HOLY SMOKE... HOW DID THEY GET HERE?



THAT IS WHAT WE WANT TO KNOW... HOW DID THEY GET THERE? COULD IT BE THEY HAD BEEN WORN AS A DISGUISE BY DEATH HIMSELF? WE WONDER...

-THE END-

THE DOLL
CAME FROM
THE HIDDEN
DEPTHS OF THE
JUNGLE TO THE
UNDERWORLD OF
THE BIG CITY. IT
LOOKED LIKE A CHILD'S
TOY... BUT THERE WAS
EVIL IN IT, STRANGE
VOODOO MAGIC...
THAT MADE IT...

THE

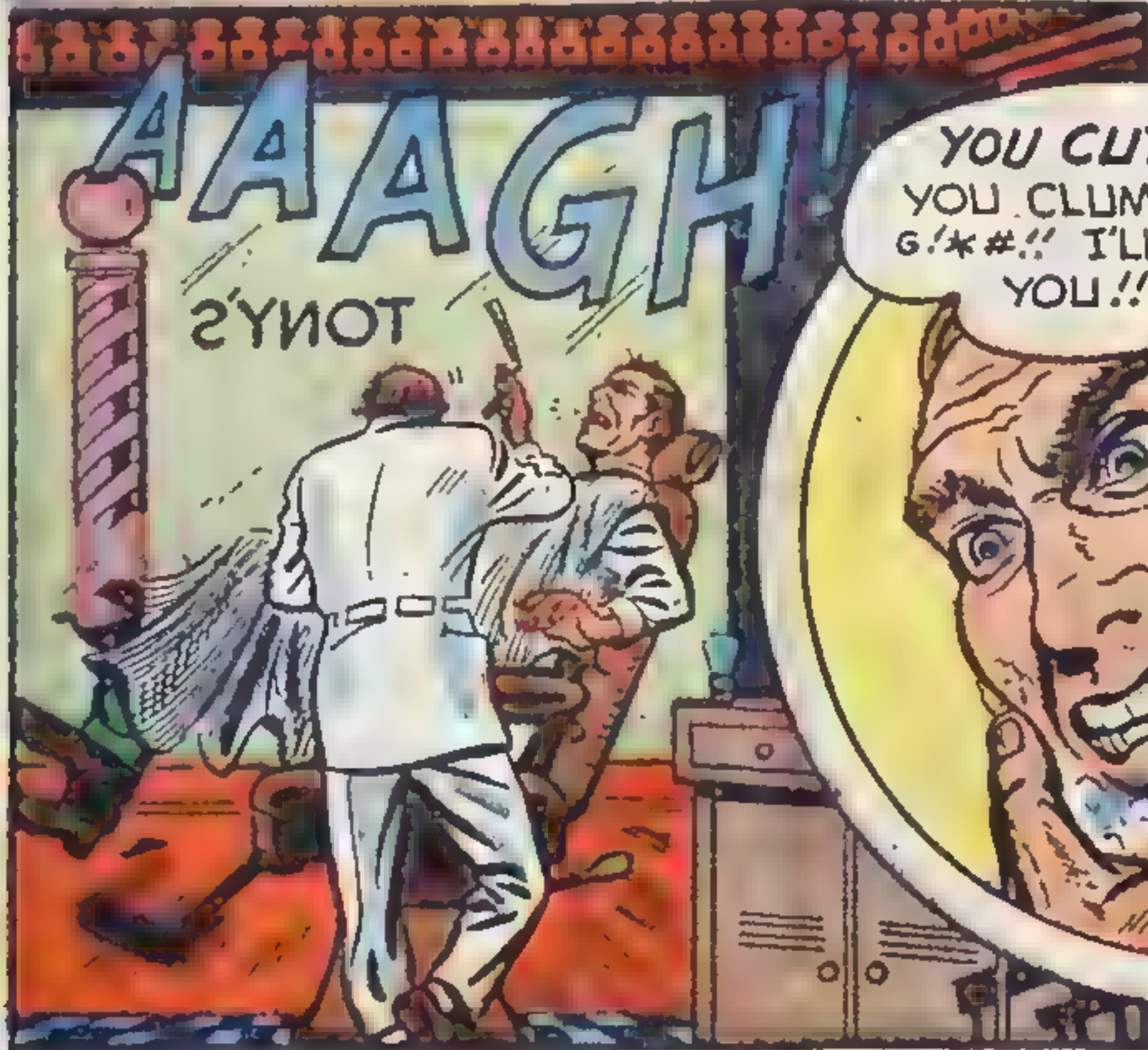
DOLL OF

DEATH



Harrison
Bache

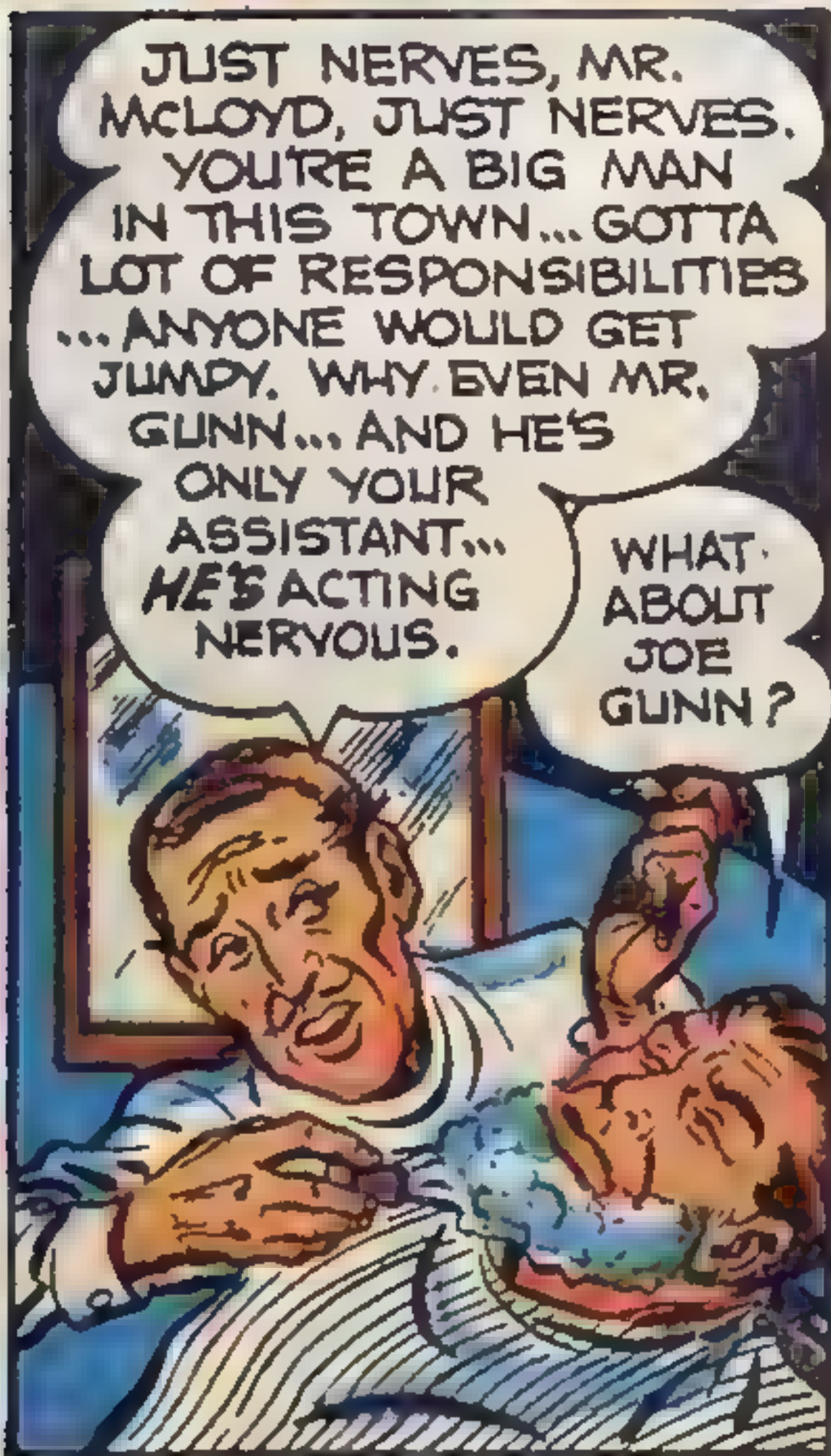
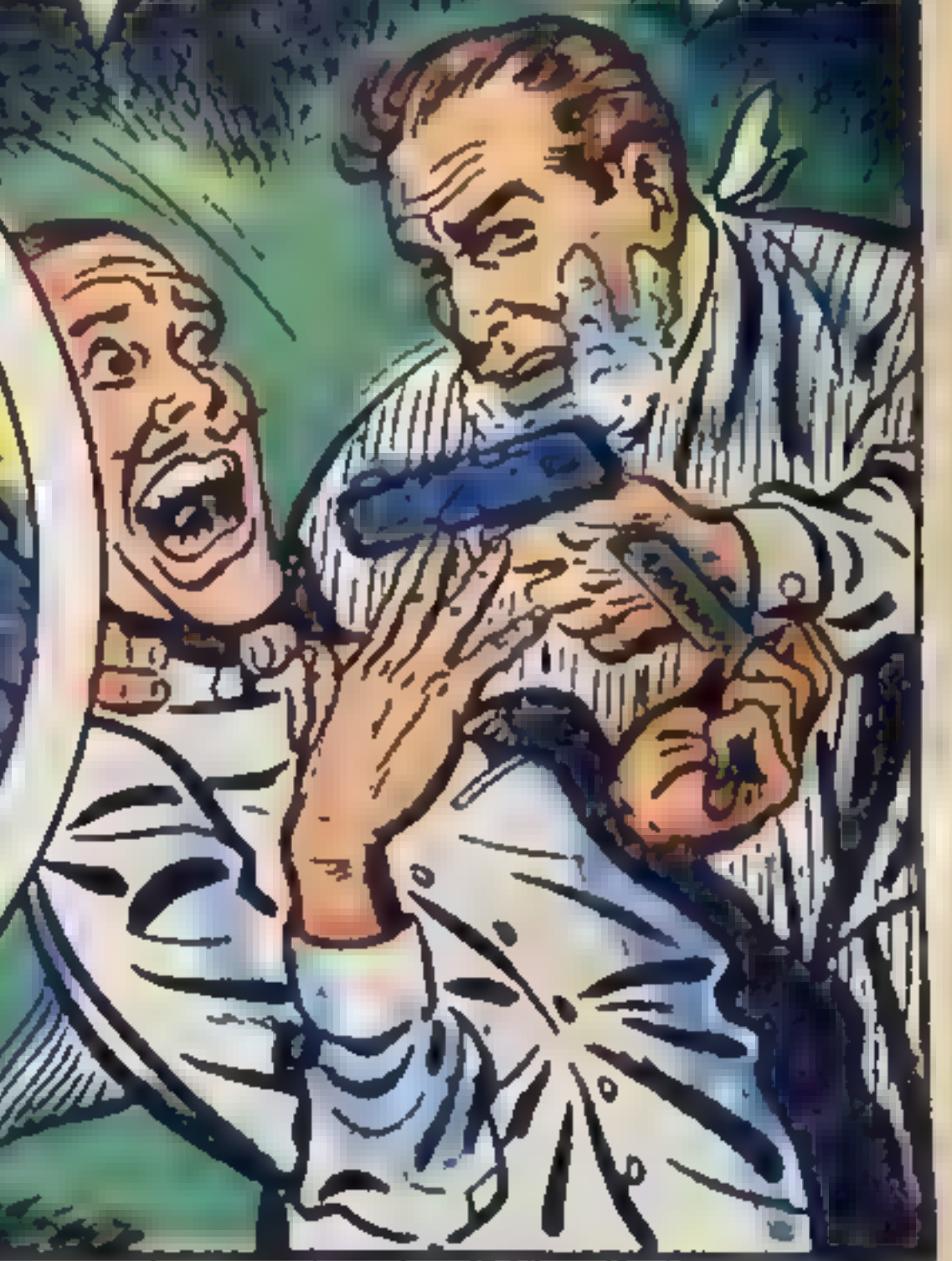
STONY McLOYD ALWAYS RATED THE BEST. HE WAS BOSS OF ALL THE RACKETS IN THE CITY, AND EVERYONE KNEW IT. AT THE THEATER, IN THE NIGHT CLUBS, AT THE BARBER HE WAS ALWAYS GIVEN TOP SERVICE. BUT THIS AFTERNOON....



YOU CUT ME
YOU CLUMSY #+
G/*#!! I'LL KILL
YOU!!

PLEASE, MR. McLOYD,
I DIDN'T CUT YOU... YOU'RE
ALL RIGHT... YOUR NECK'S
ALL RIGHT. I DIDN'T DO
ANYTHING. I GOTTA
SAFETY RAZOR, HOW
COULD I...?

BUT I FEEL
IT! IT HURTS
LIKE... THAT'S
FUNNY... IT'S
GOING AWAY.



JUST NERVES, MR.
McLOYD, JUST NERVES.
YOU'RE A BIG MAN
IN THIS TOWN... GOTTA
LOT OF RESPONSIBILITIES
...ANYONE WOULD GET
JUMPY. WHY EVEN MR.
GUNN... AND HE'S
ONLY YOUR
ASSISTANT...
HE'S ACTING
NERVOUS.

WHAT
ABOUT
JOE
GUNN?

AFTER YOU BOTH LEFT
LAST WEEK, HE COMES
BACK BY HIMSELF AND GRABS
A HANDFUL OF HAIR OFF THE
FLOOR. DIDN'T SAY NOTHING,
...JUST TAKES THE HAIR
AND WALKS OUT.



NERVES,
YEAH...

AAARGH

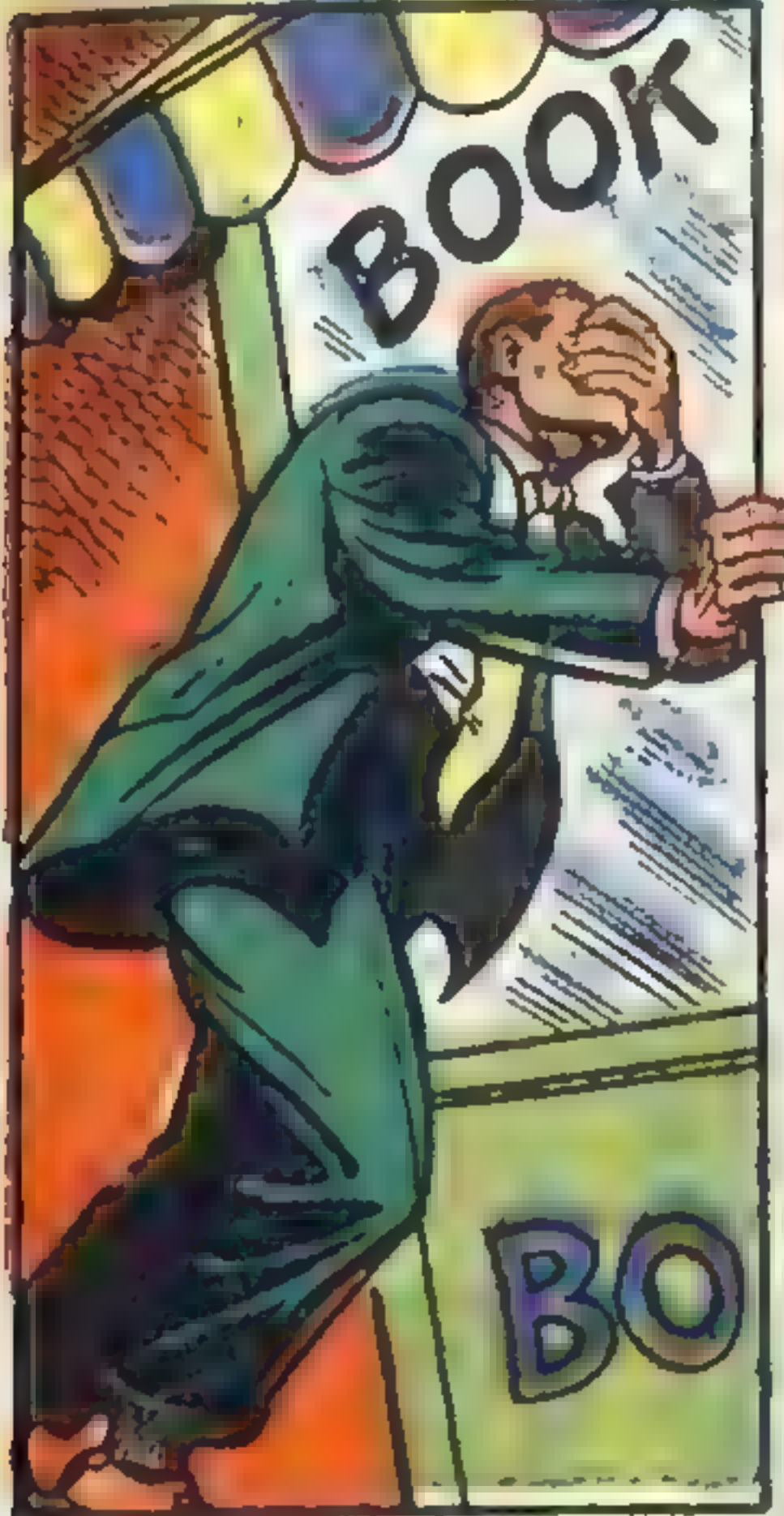


...THE
PAININ
MY SIDE... IT'S
KILLING
ME!!!

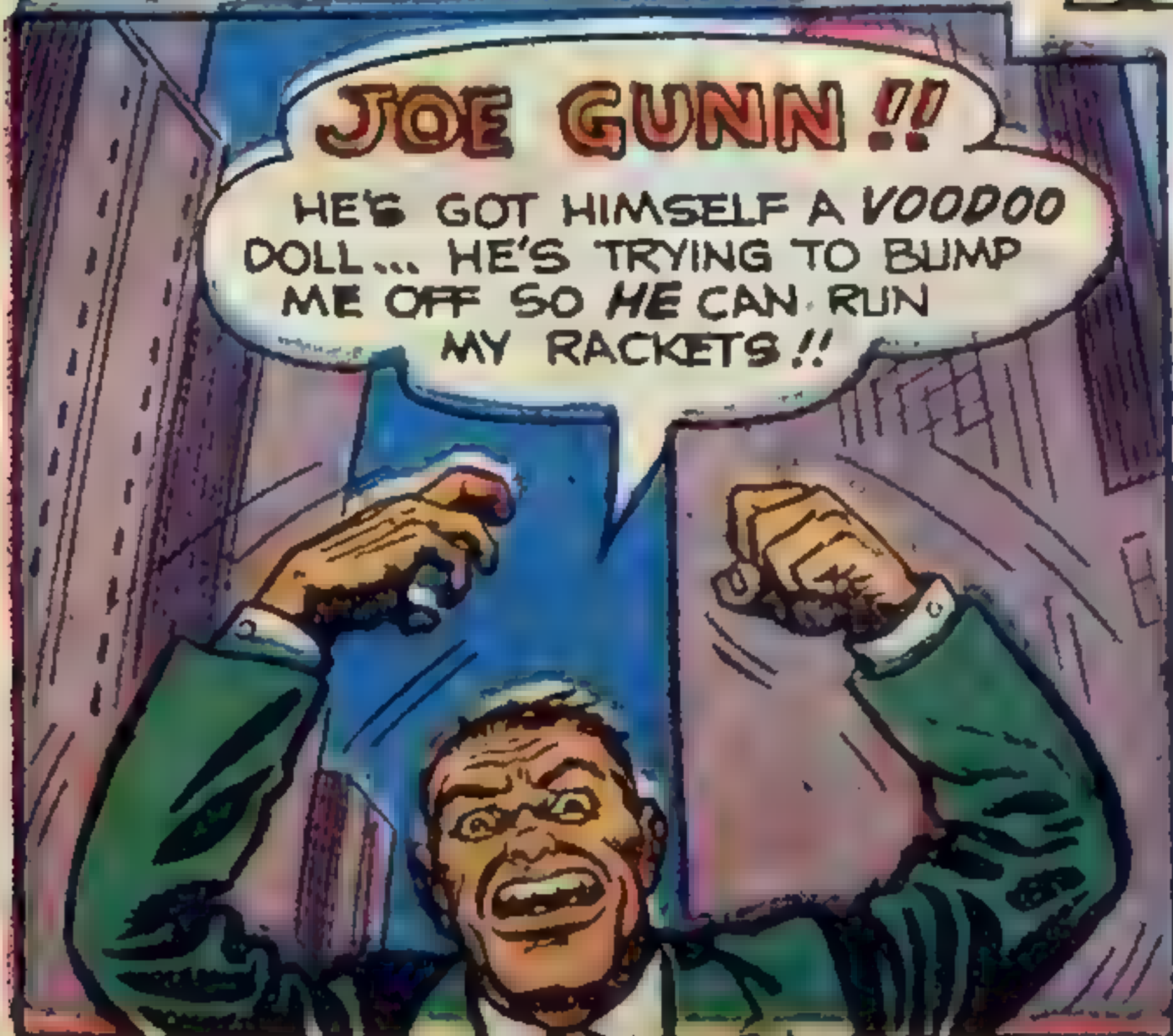
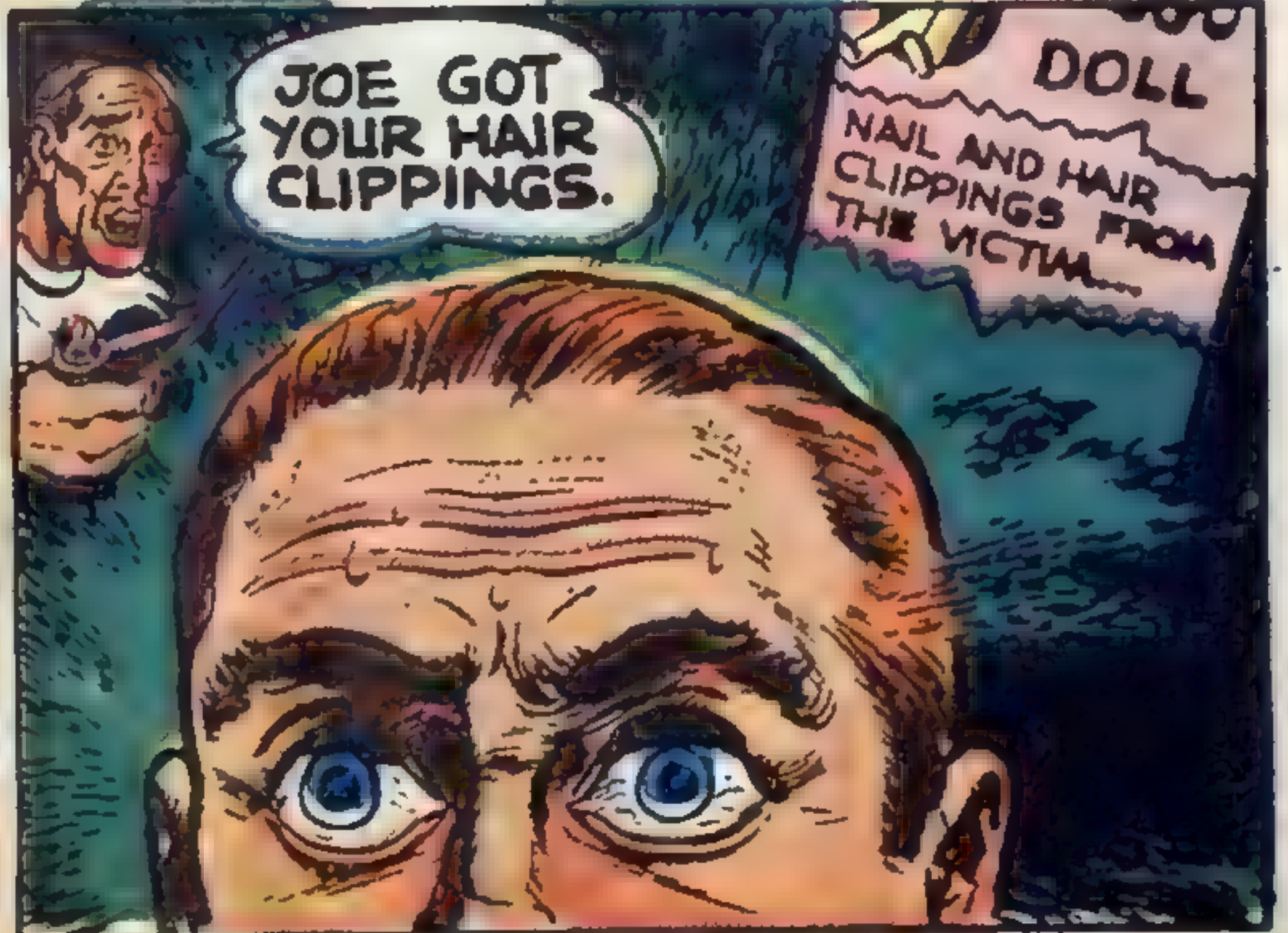
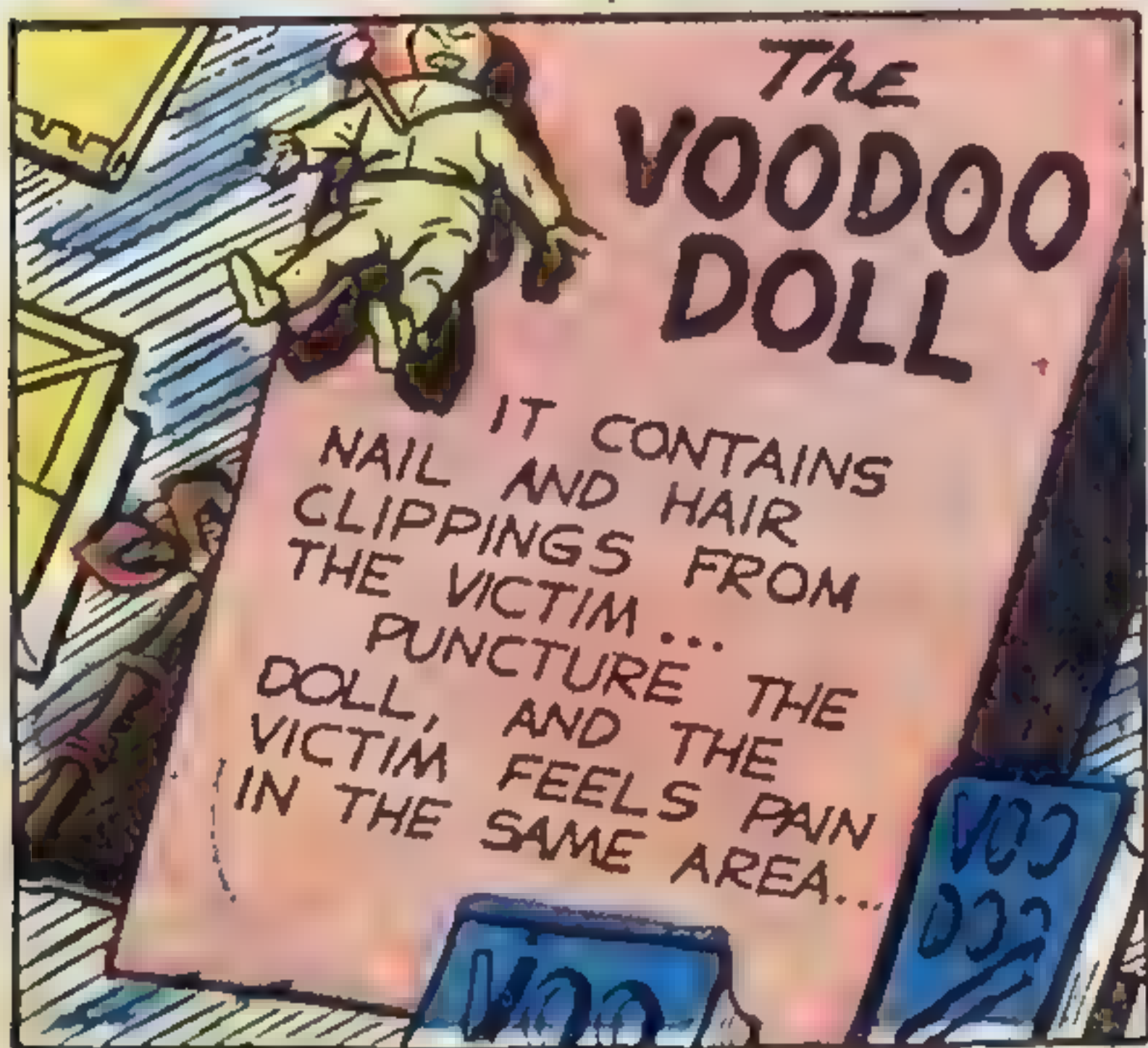
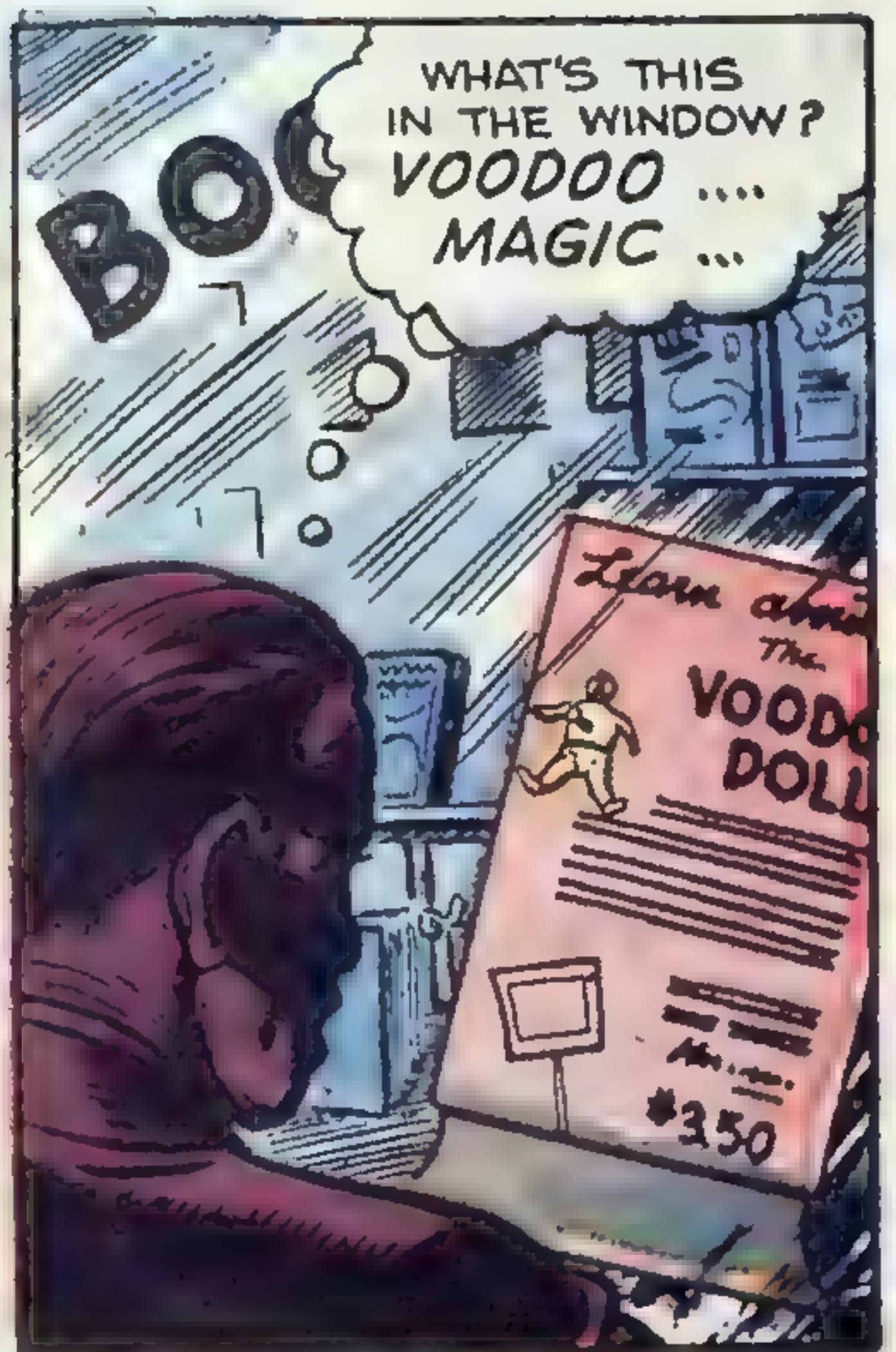


...HAVE TO GET
TO THE DOC... HE'LL
KNOW WHAT TO DO
TO STOP THE PAIN.
HE'LL MAKE IT
STOP... HURTS...

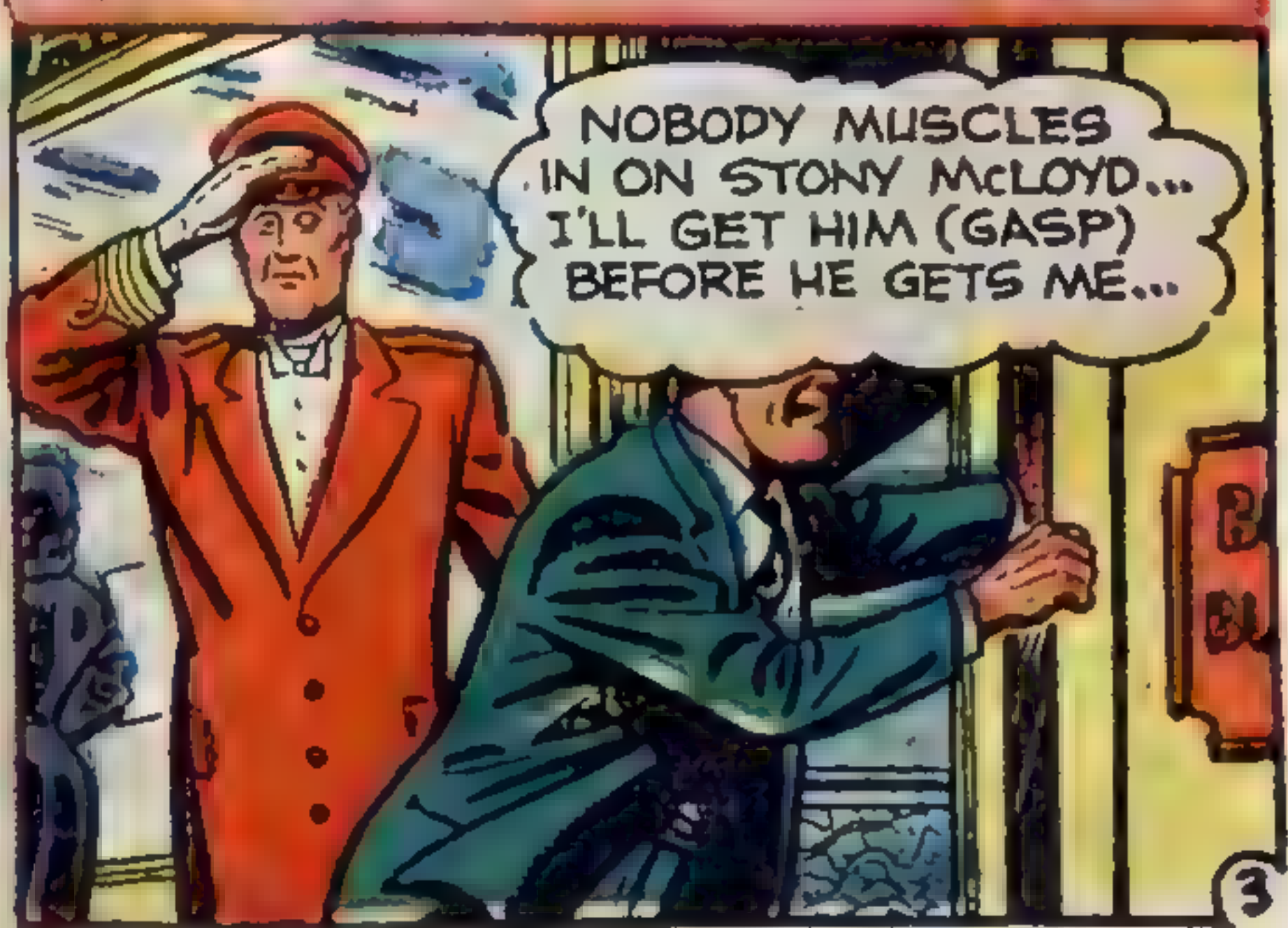
A NEEDLE OF FIRE SHOT THROUGH STONY'S EYES, BLINDING HIM WITH PAIN.



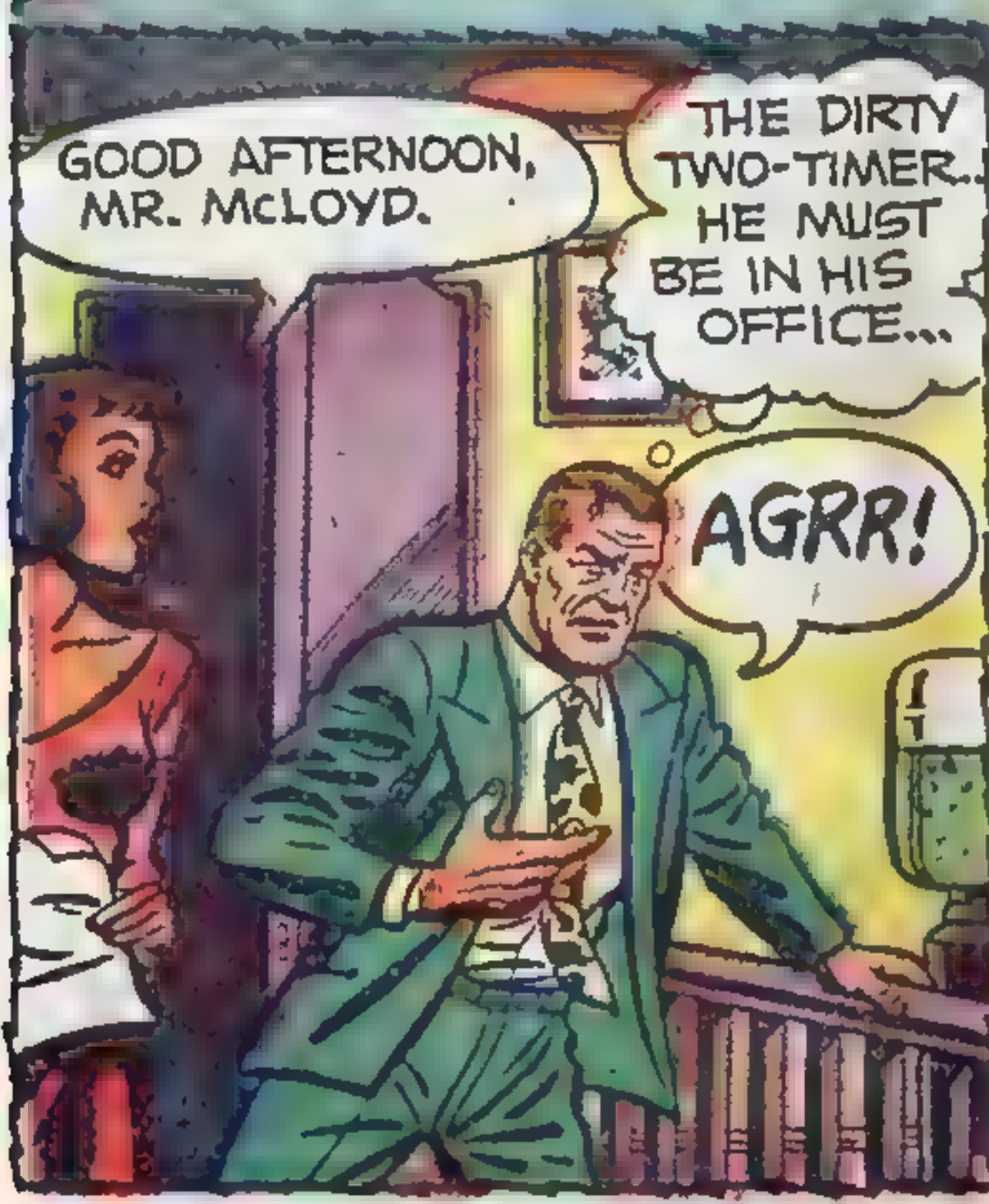
THE PAIN SLOWLY EBBED AWAY... THE WORLD SWAM BACK INTO FOCUS.



STONY'S REALIZATION OF THE VICIOUS PLOT AGAINST HIS LIFE, AND HIS DESIRE FOR VENGEANCE, DRIVES HIM ON IN SPITE OF HIS PAIN-WRACKED BODY.



AT THE OFFICES OF CRIME INC...



GOOD AFTERNOON, MR. MCLOYD.

THE DIRTY TWO-TIMER... HE MUST BE IN HIS OFFICE...

AGRR!

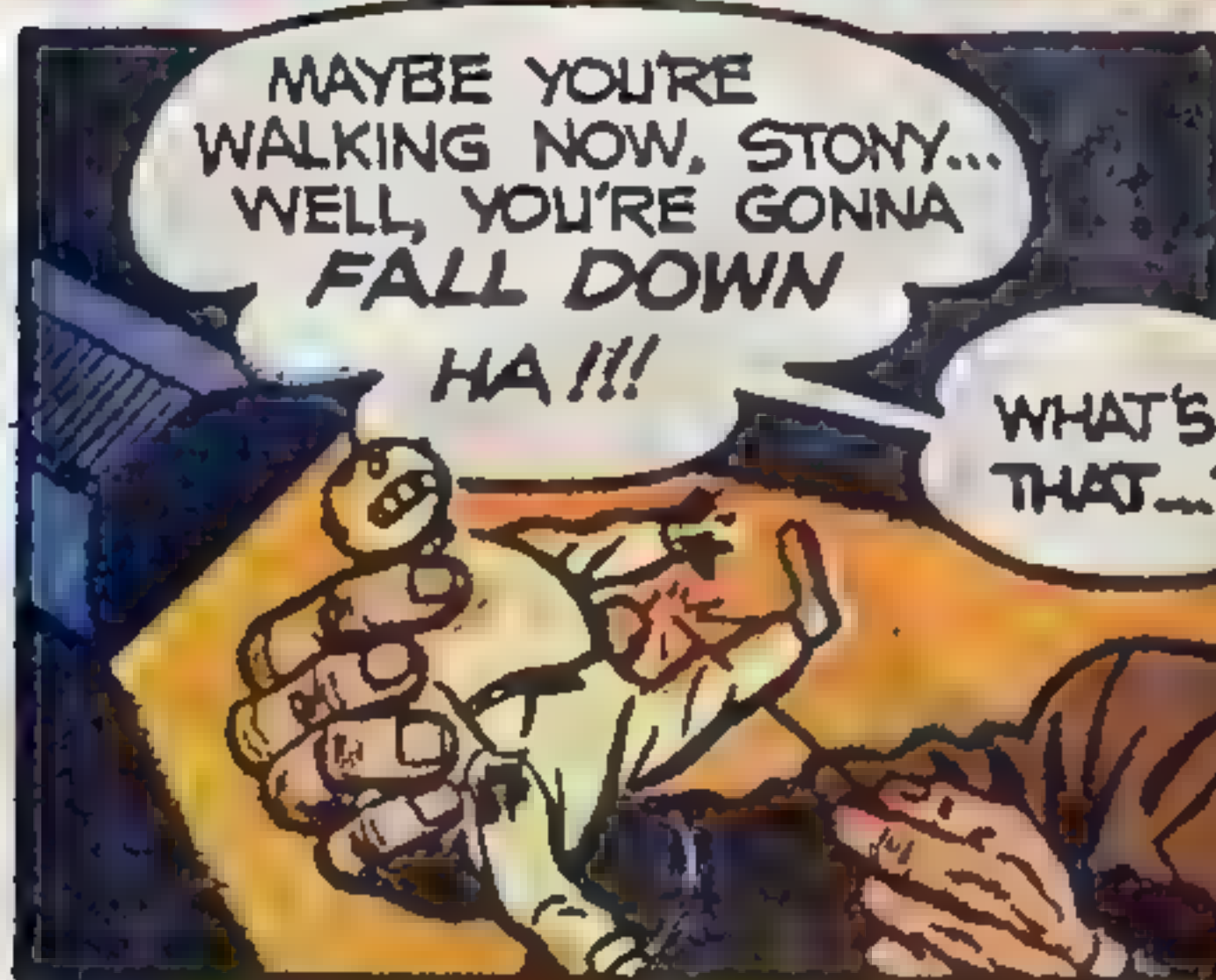
AND IN HIS PRIVATE OFFICE ...



THERE IS ONE THING HE DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT... THIS SECRET PANEL BETWEEN MY OFFICE AND HIS ...

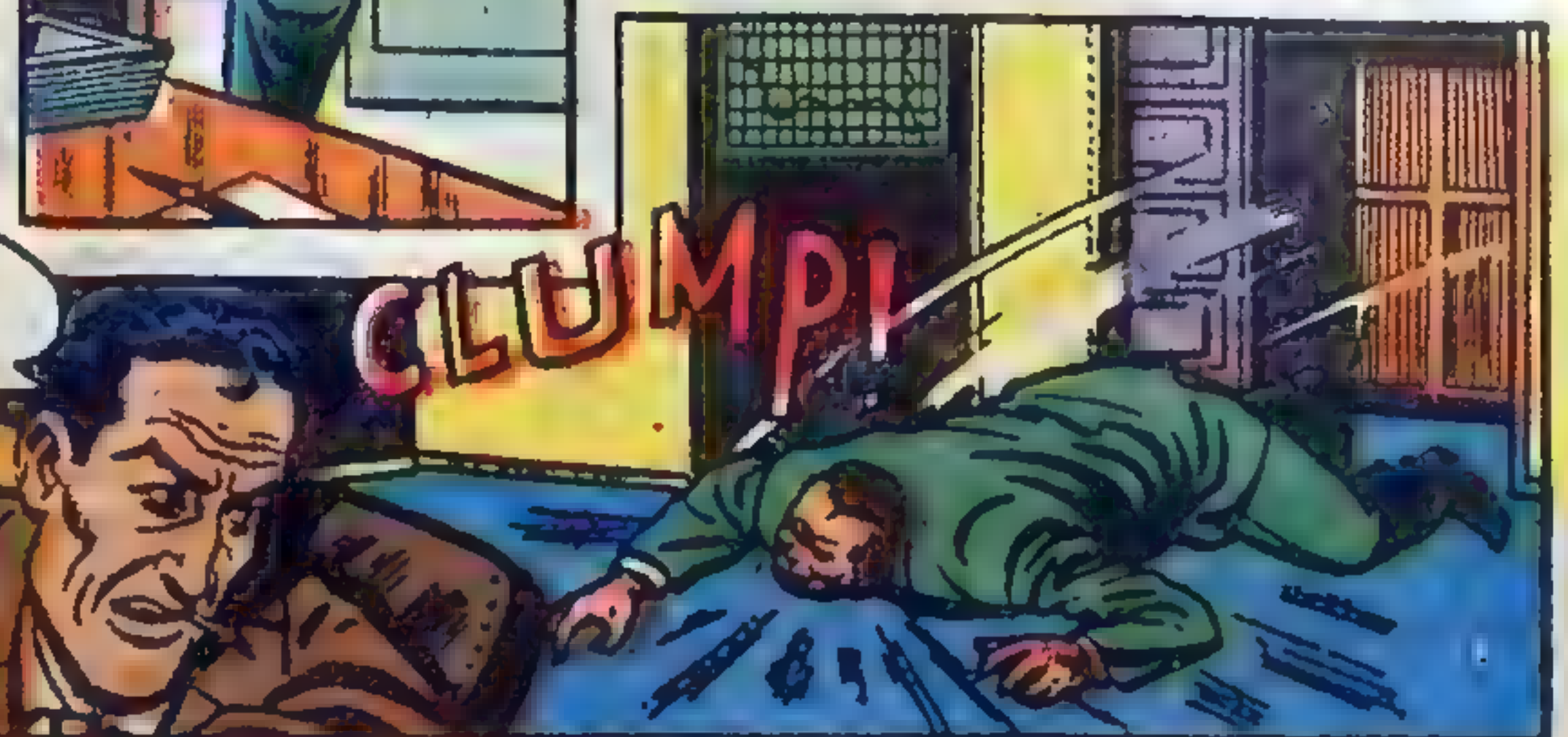


SO YOU'RE THE BIG BOSS, STONY... HAR-HAR... HOW DO YOU LIKE THIS N' THIS? HO-HO!!



MAYBE YOU'RE WALKING NOW, STONY... WELL, YOU'RE GONNA FALL DOWN HA!!!

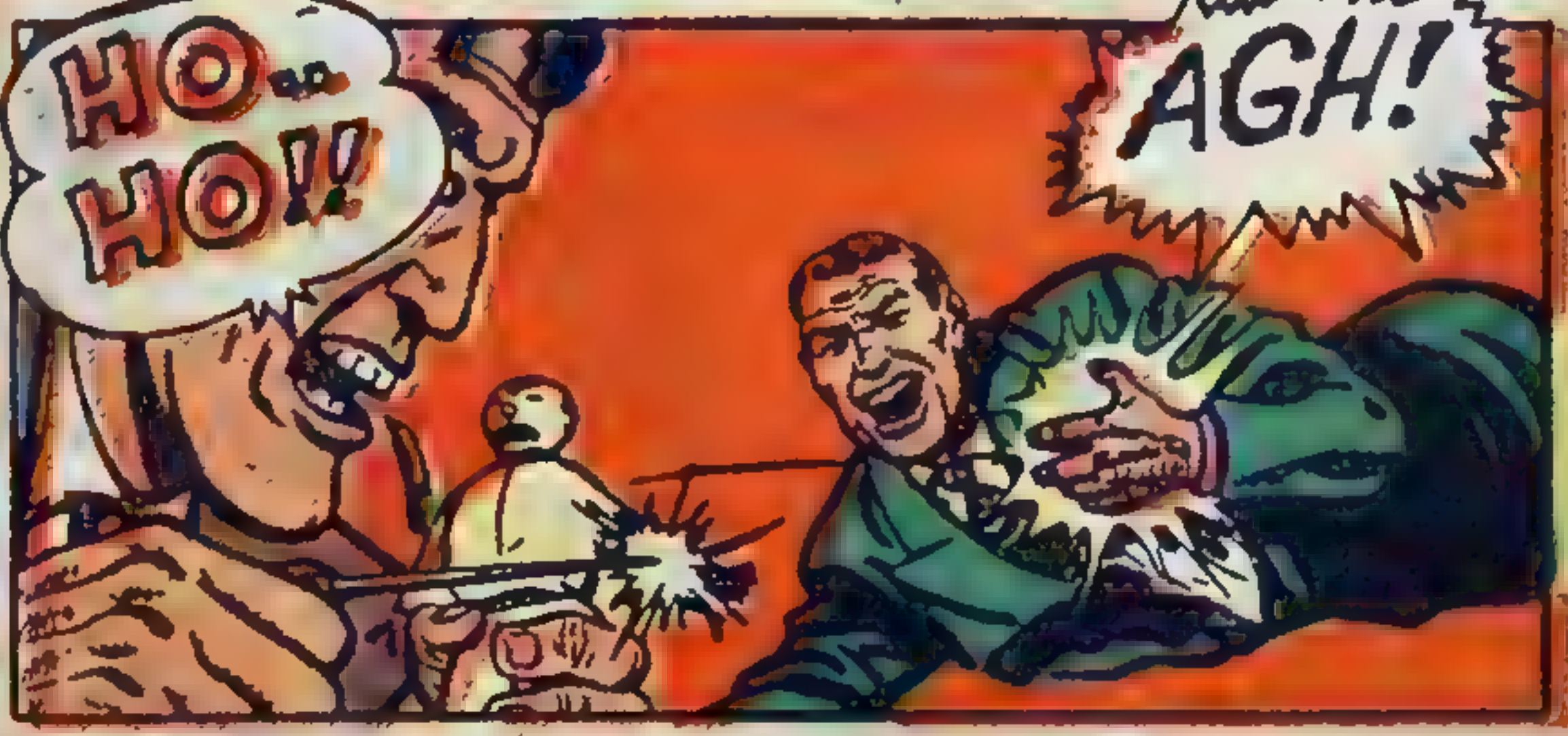
WHAT'S THAT...?



CLUMPI



WELL STONY OLD MAN, COME IN... DON'T TRY TO PULL A ROD ON ME!



HO HO!!

AGH!



...AND NOW, MR. BOSS, YOU'RE GETTING YOURS! I'VE BEEN SECOND MAN IN THIS OUTFIT TOO LONG...

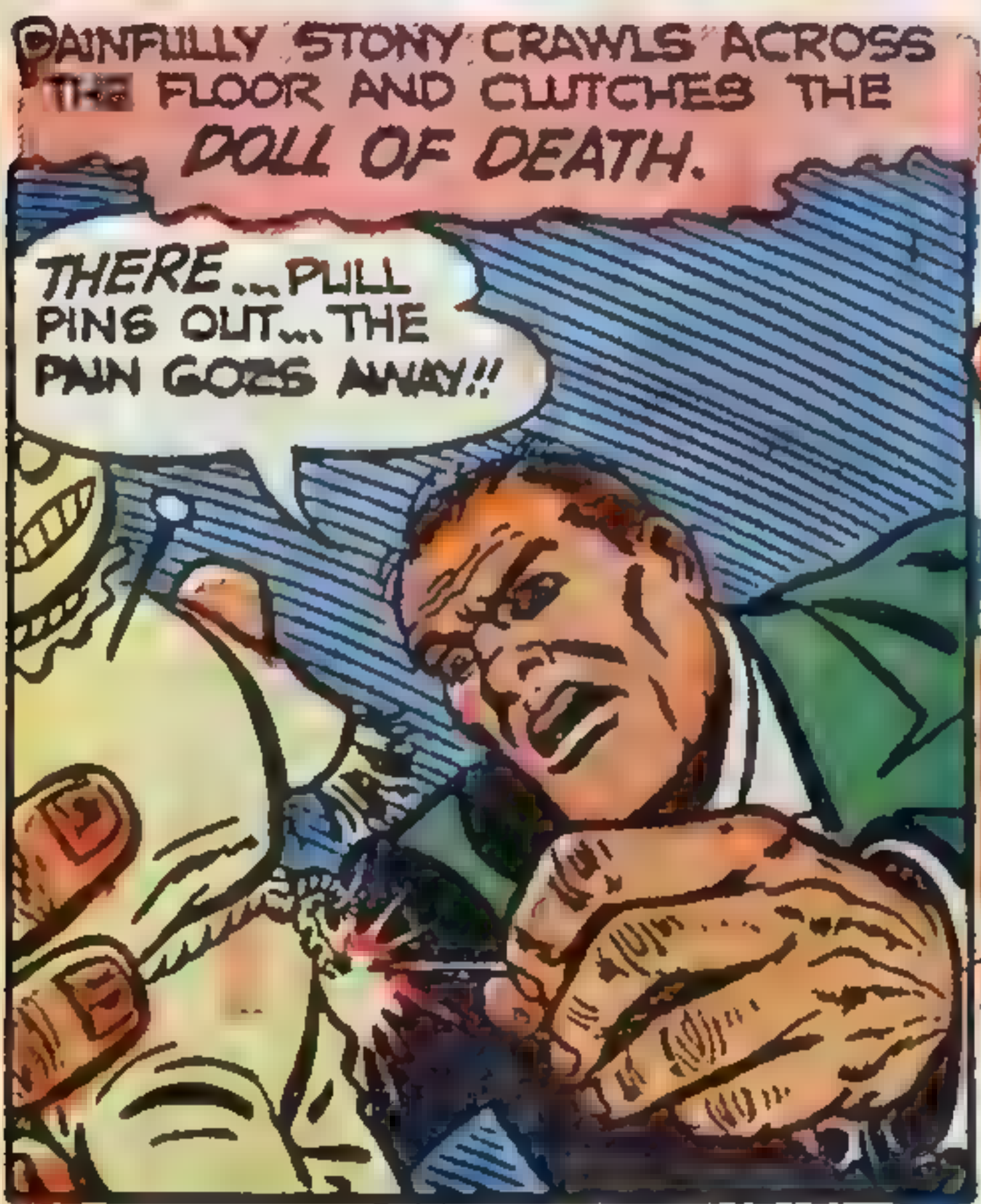


AND NOW...
JUST ONE SHARP
JAB, RIGHT THROUGH
THE **HEART!**



ARGH!

THAT'S WHAT
YOU
THINK !!



PAINFULLY STONY CRAWLS ACROSS
THE FLOOR AND CLUTCHES THE
DOLL OF DEATH.

THERE...PULL
PING OUT...THE
PAIN GOES AWAY!!



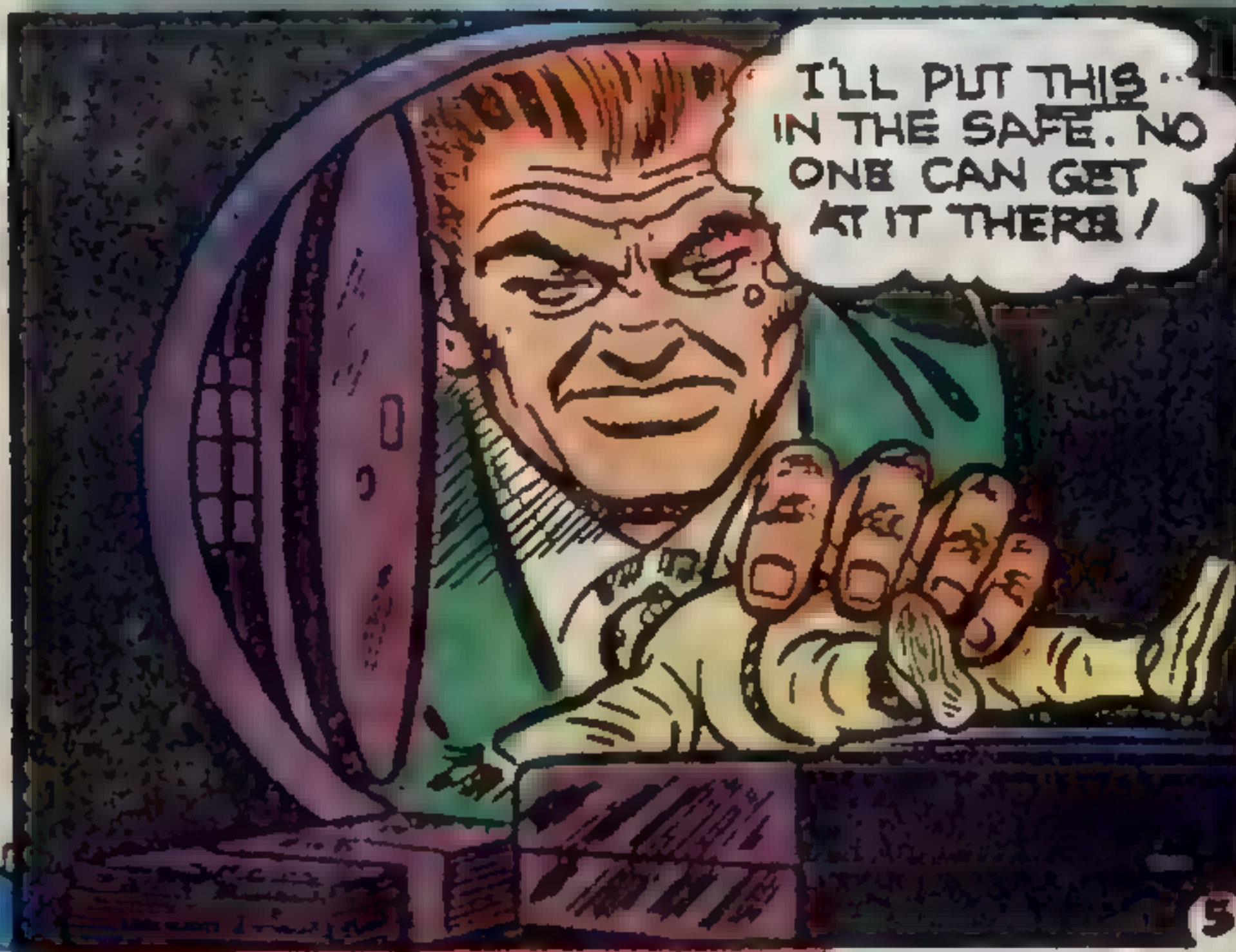
TAKE THIS TWO-TIMING RAT
DOWN THE BACK ELEVATOR AND
DUMP HIM IN THE RIVER!

RIGHT,
BOSS!



I'LL TAKE GOOD
CARE OF THIS DOLL...
I BETTER !! WHATEVER
HAPPENS TO IT
HAPPENS TO ME!

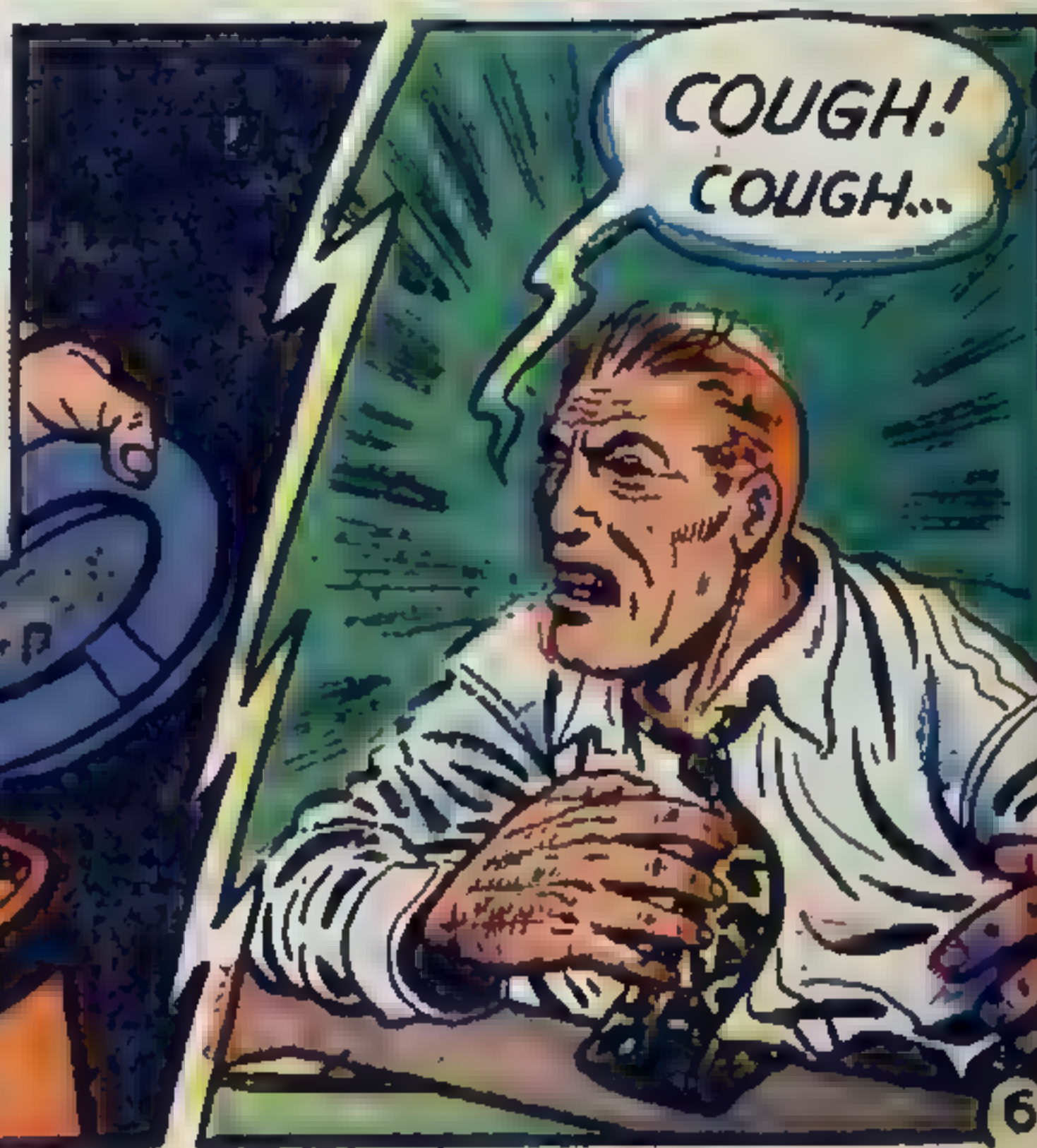
STONY WORKED LATE THAT NIGHT... AFTER THE
LAST CLERK HAD GONE HOME.

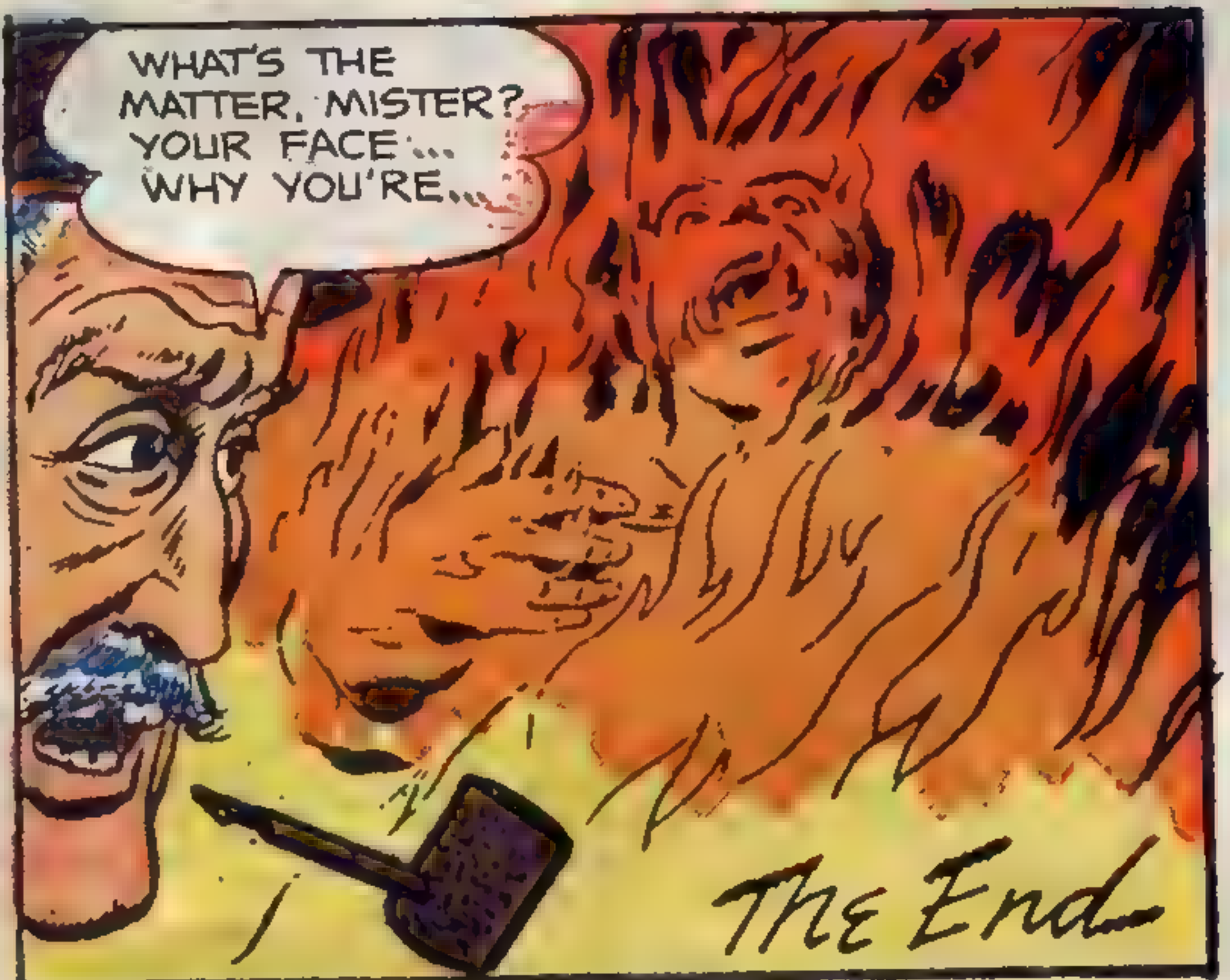


I'LL PUT THIS
IN THE SAFE. NO
ONE CAN GET
AT IT THERE!



WEAKENED BY HIS
ORDEAL, STONY PASSES
OUT... BUT THE DOLL....





AT LAST! The New BURGESS All-Purpose Electric Sprayer

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☐ Enclosed is \$10.95 plus 50c for postage (Total \$11.45). Ship Sprayer to me all postage charges prepaid.

HAREM CO., The House of Rings, 30 Church St., Dept. 0212

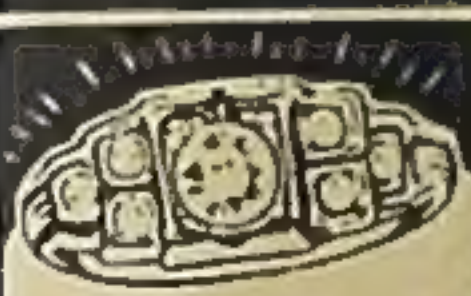
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153. Ladies' solitaire ring. Large brilliant simulated diamond in center, 6 smaller stones. Yellow or white gold color effect.



128. Men's birthstone ring. Large beautiful stone in red, ruby, green emerald, blue sapphire, etc. 10 Kt gold sides on Sterling Silver mounting.



105. Ladies' wedding ring. 10 brilliant, simulated diamonds. 1/30 14Kt gold or Sterling Silver.



120. Men's massive Sterling Silver signet ring. Suitable for engraving initials.



149. Ladies' engagement solitaire ring. Large, simulated diamond, 2 smaller stones. 1/20 14Kt gold filled or 1/30 14Kt RGP.



156. Men's massive "Good Luck Horseshoe" ring. 4-leaf clover. White or yellow gold color effect.



146. Ladies' dinner ring. Gorgeous, large, simulated diamond and many smaller stones. Sterling Silver.



114. Very Special! A GENUINE diamond! Ladies' solitaire ring. 10Kt solid yellow gold mounting.



172. Men's massive cameo ring. Simulated diamond in corner. White gold color effect. Also in ladies' size.



112. Men's exquisite Masonic ring. 1/20 12Kt yellow gold filled or Sterling Silver or 1/30 14Kt RGP.



130. Men's ring. Unusual design. 1 large stone with 6 small-size stones. Yellow or white gold plate over Sterling Silver.



102. Ladies' exquisite engagement ring. Large, brilliant, simulated diamond. Sterling Silver.



119. Men's ring. Large, brilliant, simulated diamond. Massive gold color effect mounting.



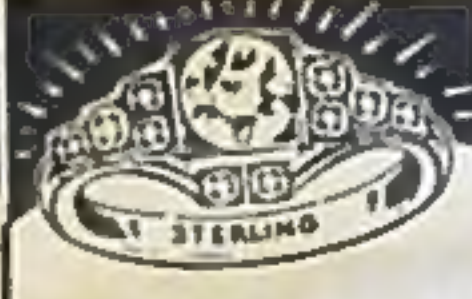
157. Men's beautiful, heavy cameo ring. Large 2-toned faced cameo. Sterling Silver or 1/30 14Kt yellow or white gold color effect.



140. Ladies' wedding band. 7 matching, brilliant, simulated diamonds. White or yellow gold color effect.



162. Men's massive lion head ring. Large, simulated diamond in mouth, 2 smaller red stones in eyes. 1/30 14Kt gold RGP.



115. Ladies' engagement ring. Large, brilliant, simulated diamond and many smaller stones. Unusual step design. Sterling Silver.



116. Ladies' exquisite wedding ring. 9 or 7 matching, simulated diamonds all around. Fishtail setting. Sterling Silver.



150. Ladies' engagement solitaire ring. Large, brilliant, simulated diamond, 6 smaller stones. Sterling Silver.



171. Ladies' engagement ring. Large, brilliant, simulated diamond, 4 smaller stones. 1/30 12Kt RGP.



170. Ladies' wedding ring. 6 brilliant, good-sized, matching, simulated diamonds. 1/30 12Kt RGP.



127. Men's ring. Beautiful, large, about 4Kt-size ruby color stone. Stone comes in all colors. Sterling Silver.



141. Ladies' cluster dinner ring. A beautiful gem. 7 or 12 brilliant, simulated diamonds. Pierced mounting. Sterling Silver or white gold color effect.



104. Ladies' gorgeous dinner ring. Large, brilliant, simulated diamond, 6 medium-size and many smaller stones. Sterling Silver. Very rare with so many stones.



163. Men's massive red stone ring. 1/20 12Kt yellow gold filled or 1/30 14Kt RGP.



165. Ladies' fancy cocktail ring. 1 large, simulated diamond, 10 simulated rubies, 12 white stones. Yellow gold color effect.



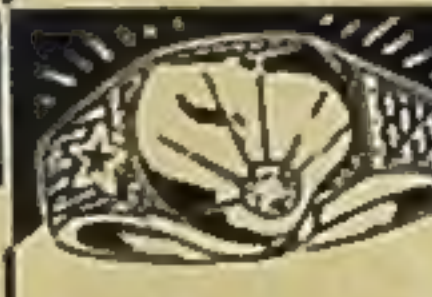
164. Men's massive veteran's discharge ring. Heavy Sterling Silver.



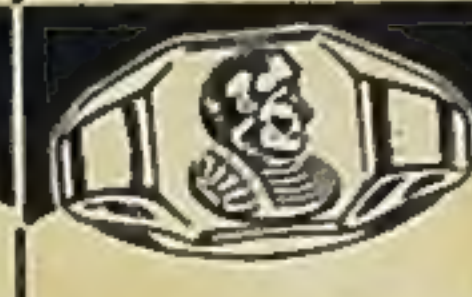
166. Men's beautiful western saddle design ring. Solid Sterling Silver or yellow gold color effect. Also in ladies' size.



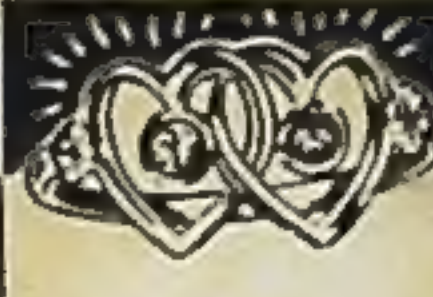
160. Men's large square cut, simulated garnet ring. Yellow or white gold color effect.



109. Men's signet ring with sparkling, simulated diamond. Heavy yellow gold color effect mounting.



111. Men's Viking cameo ring. 10Kt. gold top on solid Sterling Silver mounting.



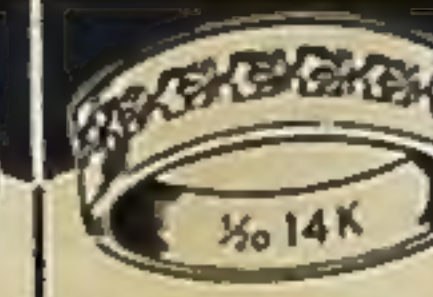
152. Sweetheart ring. 2 simulated rubies on entwined hearts. Yellow gold color effect.



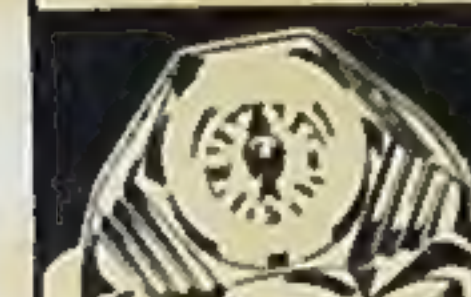
106. Men's solitaire ring. Large, brilliant 2Kt-size simulated diamond. Fine heavy mounting.



158. Men's Indian head ring. White gold color effect. Also in boys' sizes.



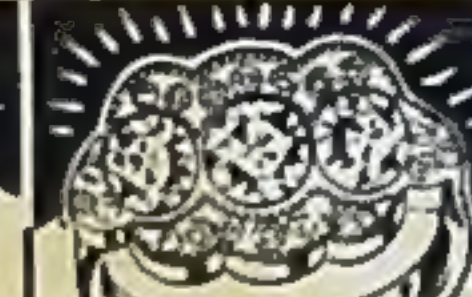
118. Ladies' friendship and modern style wedding ring. 1/20 14Kt yellow gold filled or 12Kt gold plate. Also heavy Sterling Silver.



147. Massive compass ring. A handsome, well-made ring. In heavy white gold color effect.



126. Men's extra large Egyptian head ring, with snake on each side. 2 sparkling, simulated diamonds or red stones. Sterling Silver.



167. Ladies' exquisite cluster dinner ring. 3 large, simulated diamonds and many smaller stones. Sterling Silver or white gold color effect.



168. Ladies' exquisite engagement ring. 2 large, brilliant, simulated diamonds, 6 smaller stones. Sterling Silver or 1/30 14Kt gold.



159. Ladies' or men's locket ring. Holds 1/2" x 1/4" picture. Yellow or white gold color effect.



149. Ladies' dinner ring. Unusual design. Large, brilliant, simulated diamond, about 10 smaller stones. White gold color effect or Sterling Silver. Ring also comes in oval shape design.



161. Ladies' dinner ring. Gorgeous peacock design. 15 sparkling, simulated rubies, sapphires, emeralds. White or yellow gold color effect.



129. Men's solitaire ring. Brilliant, simulated 1Kt or 2Kt-size diamond. Sterling Silver.



101. Beautiful baby ring. Solid 10Kt solid yellow gold mounting.



121. Men's heavy Sterling Silver signet ring, suitable for engraving initials.



154. Ladies' birthstone ring. Gorgeous, square cut, 4Kt-size, simulated emerald. Sterling Silver or white gold color effect. Stone comes in all colors.



151. Men's ring. Simulated ruby in center, 2 simulated diamonds. Yellow gold color effect. Also with 3 white stones.



142. Men's U.S. Army insignia ring. Heavy Sterling Silver or yellow or white gold color effect.



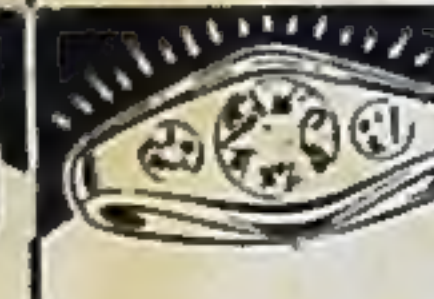
145. Men's U.S. Navy insignia ring. Heavy Sterling Silver or yellow or white gold color effect.



144. Men's U.S. Marine Corps insignia ring. Heavy Sterling Silver or yellow or white gold color effect.



143. Men's U.S. Air Force insignia ring. Heavy Sterling Silver or yellow or white gold color effect.



107. Men's massive ring. Large, brilliant, simulated diamond, 2 smaller stones. White gold color effect.

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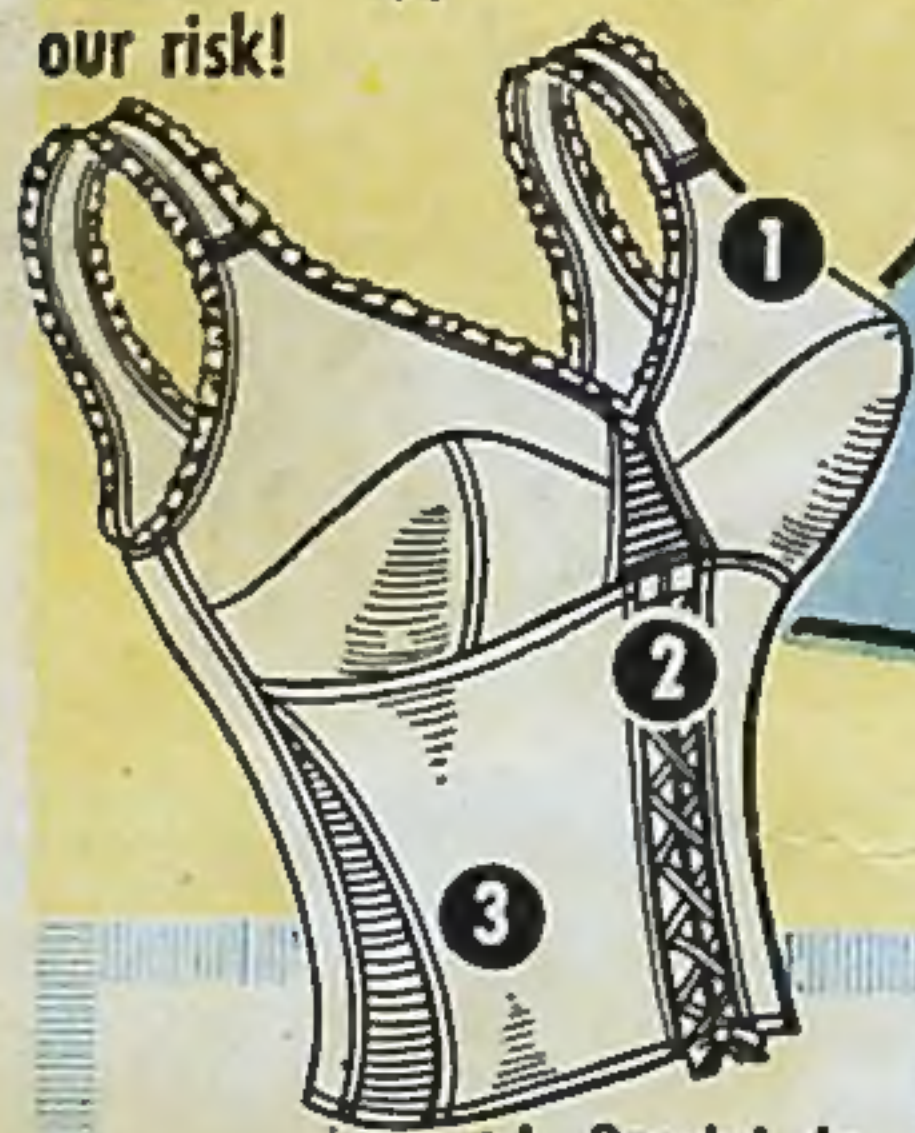
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Reduces Large Appearance in Seconds

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☐ Send C. O. D. I'll pay postman \$2.98 plus postage.
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